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NMC seeking exemption from 36.77-percent Fund contribution. **PAGE 2**

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POLL RESULTS

Is the CNMI government doing enough to pursue corruption cases and other white-collar crimes on the islands?

Yes-**16**

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Sunday February 24, 2008

INSIDE

Preemptive Strike

Sen. Barack Obama said Saturday that the Republican presidential nominee in waiting, Sen. John McCain, has lobbyists as top aides and "many of them have been running their business on the campaign bus while they've been helping him."

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Best Indie Film

The pregnancy comedy "Juno" was chosen as the year's best independent film and won two other honors Saturday at the Spirit Awards, including best actress for Ellen Page.

Life & Style...Page 17

Japanese businessman arrested for 1981 murder of wife in LA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Authorities arrested at Saipan International Airport on Friday a Japanese businessman who was the suspect in the murder of his wife in Los Angeles 27 years ago.

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ALL TOGETHER NOW JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Pacific Islands Club team pull with all their might during the "Tug of War" event of the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday. ***See photo gallery on Page 6***

Local GOP endorses McCain

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Local members of the National Republican Party cast their votes at the Garapan Central Park Saturday night, for the election of delegates that will represent them in the selection of the party's presidential candidate. The nine delegates will travel to Minneapolis for the Republican National Convention on Sept. 1-4, 2008.

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

All nine delegates from the local Republican Party will support John McCain's candidacy

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Pula backs wage structure for CNMI, A. Samoa

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Bush administration has urged Congress to halt further minimum wage hikes in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

Nikolao Pula, acting deputy assistant secretary of insular affairs, said the federal wage law should be amended to avoid wage increases that could be damaging to the economies of both the CNMI and American Samoa.

Pula

"In light of the risks to the American Samoa and CNMI economies… the administration suggests that Congress give strong consideration to amending [Public Law] 110-28 in order to avoid increases in the minimum wage that could result in significant job loss and harm the economies of the two territories," read a portion of Pula's testimony for the congressional hearing on the minimum wage in American Samoa on Saturday. The testimony was delivered by Lydia Faleafine-Nomuro, field representative of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs in American Samoa.

Pula offered two suggestions on factors that he said Congress should keep in mind in amending the wage law.

The first concerned a bill introduced in the House of Rep-

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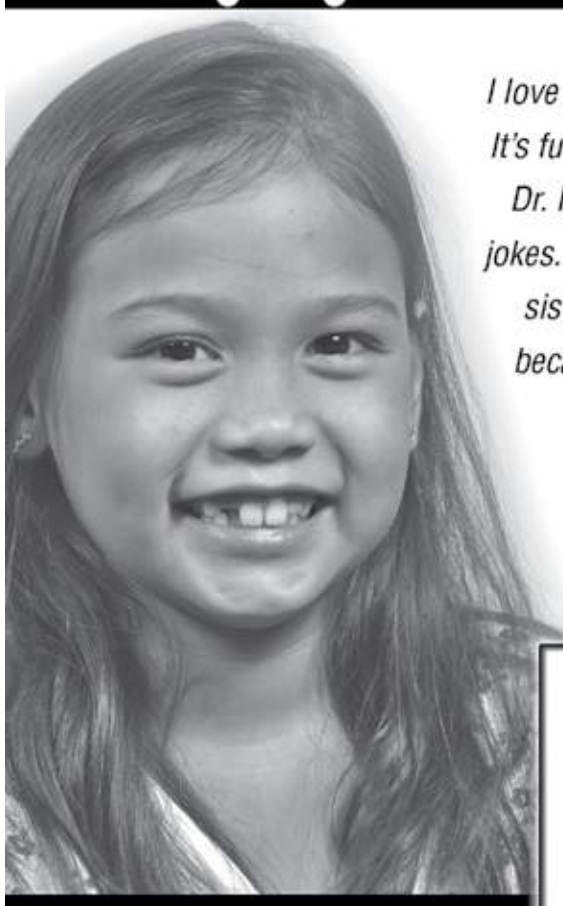
"I love going to Marianas Eye Institute"



I love going to Marianas Eye Institute. It's fun! Everybody is so friendly and Dr. Mark makes me laugh with his jokes. My mommy brings me and my sisters to Marianas Eye Institute because she wants us to have the best eye care possible.

Maddie Santos – age 8

Dr. David Khorram, MD
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Local

NMC is seeking exemption from 36.77-percent Fund contribution

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College has asked the Legislature to either exempt the college from high retirement contribution rates or provide the money to pay them.

NMC, which is facing possible termination of its accreditation, says it needs $3.5 million to pay the Retirement Fund if an exemption is not provided from the 36.77-percent contribution rate now in effect for autonomous agencies. The amount will cover the difference between NMC's old contribution of 24 percent and the new rate of 36.77 percent through fiscal year 2008.

An alternative to providing the money, according to NMC, is for lawmakers to pass legislation allowing NMC to continue paying at the old rate retroactive to 2006.

NMC is one of the agencies excluded from a recently enacted law, which brought the employer contribution rate to 18 percent. The reduced rate applies only to agencies under the General Fund and Public School System. All other agencies must pay the actuary-recommended rate of 36.77 percent.

NMC's inability to pay for its share of retirement contributions is one of the many issues that led to the decision by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges- Western Association of Schools and Colleges to issue a "show-cause"order against NMC.

The college has only a few months to show WASC why its accreditation should not be withdrawn.

The commission took the action against NMC because the college has failed to address problems that had been ongoing for many years.

Accreditation is important because it proves to the public that a college meets standards of quality, and allows students to access financial aid programs. In addition, many institutions look at accreditation when deciding whether to allow transfer of credits. In some cases, loss of accreditation could lead to closure of the college.

TAOTAO TANO FUNDRAISING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc. president Gregorio Cruz and other members gather for the group's fundraising event at the Saipan Grand Hotel Saturday night.

Senate to hold budget hearing on Tuesday

A Senate committee will conduct a hearing tomorrow to discuss the resources available to the government in fiscal year 2008.

The budget hearing will be held at 2pm Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008, at the Senate chamber.

The Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs has asked autonomous agencies to be present at the hearing and to bring information on funds they received from and remitted to the central government, as well as on money owed to the agencies and money they owed.

Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate panel, said the data will help the committee will help lawmakers understand how the government fared financially in 2007 and what the implications are for the current fiscal year.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona, a member of the committee, said the public is encouraged to attend the hearing and let their concerns be known.

The agencies requested to come to the hearing are the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth Development Authority, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

The CNMI government is currently operating under the FY2007 budget. The 15th House of Representatives passed a budget, but the Senate adjourned without acting on it. The new set of lawmakers, which took office in January 2008, is still working on a new appropriation bill.

The governor has identified revenue amounting to $160.1 million for FY2008. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Mificpa tax seminar on March 1

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants has invited David Burger to conduct a tax seminar on March 1, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Burger is the chairman of CNMI Board of Accountancy.

The topics will include an overview of the preparation of Form 1040CM-Individual Income Tax Return and Form 1120CM-Corporate Income Tax Return.

Also, recent updates and developments prescribed by the CNMI Revenue & Taxation as well as the United States Internal Revenue Code on Corporate Taxation will be discussed.

All accountants, members and non-members are encouraged to attend this current and informative seminar. The managers and other professional individuals who seek to get more information with these tax returns are also welcome.

A seminar fee of $10 for members and $12 for non-members is required. Proceeds will go to selected charitable/ civic organization.

For registration, call Irene at 287-7997, Lois at 235-9322 or Jho at 285-2812. ***(Mificpa)***

TO AVOID INFLATED ATTORNEY'S FEES IN PROBATE CASES,

Govendo urges lawmakers to regulate attorney's fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has urged lawmakers to pass a legislation that seeks to prevent inflated attorney's fees for all lawyers involved in estate's probate proceedings.

"It might be now time for the Legislature to regulate attorney's fees of those lawyers involved in the estate," Govendo said.

The judge stressed the need for such regulation during Friday's hearing in the controversial Angel Malite estate in which he appointed two new estate administrators—Jimmy G. Sablan and Esther Fejeran Sound.

Govendo noted that every time there is a big estate probate in the CNMI there's always trouble because it's always about attorney's fees instead of following the deceased's will and the heirs' best interest.

"In other words, there should be no contingency fees (in probate cases)," the judge pointed out.

Govendo earlier kicked out Jesus C. Tudela as administrator of the Malite estate for mismanagement.

He found out that Tudela failed to object to an inflated attorneys' fees that reached a total of $1.3 million which was received by Tudela's lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig.

Govendo agreed with the Malite heirs' argument that Tudela as then administrator has voiced no objection to the fees sought by Atalig and Yana despite the absence of detailed billing statements, invoices, and or time records.

"Such an approach to managing a $3.45 million estate is a blatant breach of the administrator's fiduciary duty," the judge said in his order.

Govendo said Tudela breached his fiduciary duty to the undisputed heirs when he waived any objection to the ex parte order approving the award of $1,138,500 in attorney fees, or one-third of the estate.

He said agreeing to a contingency fee agreement that is statutorily impermissible under probate law, wherein the administrator's attorneys were awarded one-third of the estate's assets, or $1.1 million amounts to a failure to protect the estate from waste and depletion.

Govendo suspended Yana and Atalig from practicing law for their failure to disgorge or return a total of $1.3 million in attorney's fees awarded to them. But the CNMI Supreme Court stopped the suspension and set an oral argument for March 11.

In an order issued on Jan. 15, 2008, Govendo said he finds the two lawyers in contempt of court for failure to submit detailed billing statements created in compliance with the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

"Mr. Atalig and Mr. Yana knew or should have known that contingency fees in probate cases are prohibited by law, or at the very least, would/could be challenged by an interested party," he said.

'Shooting resorts' bill introduced at House

Legislation has been proposed to allow "shooting resorts" in the Northern Marianas.

Rep. Raymond Palacios introduced a bill amending the weapons control law to allow resort developments that offer target ranges for competitive rifle competitions and skeet shooting.

The measure is seen to help diversify the activities available to tourists coming to the islands.

Palacios

"The Commonwealth could attract major developers interested in building "shooting resorts" where featured activities include, among others traditional tourist activities, target ranges for rifle competitions, and skeet shooting with shotguns," states the bill, which is co-sponsored by Representatives Justo S. Quitugua and Oscar M. Babauta.

The bill allows for the establishment of shooting resorts with amenities such as hotels, restaurants, retail shops, office spaces and target and range facilities for rifle and handgun competitions. A resort must be worth a minimum capital investment of $25 million, with Tinian and Rota each receiving $4 million of the investment.

The bill proposes an annual license fee of $5,000 for a shooting gallery, and $15,000 for a shooting resort. It also sets restrictions on shooting facilities and requires shooting galleries to maintain $5 million of liability insurance coverage at all times. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Meeting of Autism Society of the CNMI on Feb. 27

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008, at 5:30pm at the Herman's Bakery Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of children with autism are invited to attend.

For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

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LOCAL

From Page 1

for president of the Unites States.

This marks the first time the Commonwealth GOP is participating in any U.S. election, as the group was admitted to the national Republican Party after the 2004 election.

"I think John McCain is the most qualified person for the job, said national representative Roman "Bo" Palacios. "He knows the islands. He's a leader in economic revival and he has the commitment to win the war.

McCain thanked the Northern Marianas Republicans for their support, stating, "I'm honored to have the support of these dedicated Republicans from the Commonwealth, and proud that for the first time their delegation will be able to join our party's convention in September."

The endorsement of McCain by the local members of the National Republican Party coincided with the election of six delegates held during a meeting last Saturday evening at the Garapan Central Park.

The delegates chosen were Washington Representative Pedro A. Tenorio, Benigno Sablan, Roman Tudela, Ana Teregeyo, John Reyes, and Manual "Brown" Tenorio who raked in the most votes with 170.

The six will join the three automatic delegates— NMI Republican Party president Tom Pangelinan, national committeewoman MaryLou S. Ada, and Palacios—that will represent the CNMI GOP in the election of the party's presidential candidate.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of CNMI Republican Party members cast their votes at the Garapan Central Park Saturday night, for the election of delegates that will represent them in the selection of the party's presidential candidate. The nine delegates will travel to Minneapolis for the Republican National Convention on Sept. 1-4, 2008.

The nine delegates will travel to Minneapolis for the Republican National Convention on Sept. 1-4, 2008. At the convention, the Republicans will pick the party's candidates for president and vice president.

A straw poll for the 2008 Republican presidential candidate was also held last night at the event and 90 percent of the CNMI Republicans voted for McCain, while Congressman Ron Paul and former governor Mike Huckabee split the remaining 10 percent.

Of the 500 people who registered in the historic event, at least 300 attended Saturday's event.

McCain recognized the Republican voters in the CNMI and sent a special message to them.

He addressed the CNMI republicans in a speech saying that he knows the island and its people.

"I look forward to working with MaryLou and chairman Tom on the presidential campaign and I encourage all of you to get involved," he said.

McCain said he believes he and the people can work together to address "economic problems, fix social security , enhance our education and ensure that our veterans are treated with decency and respect that they deserve."

"Sen. Obama and Sen. Clinton want to increase the size of the federal govt, I intend to reduce it. I won't sign a bill that has earmarks in it, any earmarks in it. I'll fight for the line item veto and I won't permit any expansion whatsoever of the entitlement programs that are bankrupting us," he said.

McCain said on the contrary, he intends to reform those programs so that government is no longer "in that habit making promises to the Americans that they do not intend to keep."

He added that while Clinton and Obama will raise your taxes, he intends to cut them.

"I'll start by making the Bush Tax Cuts permanent. I'll cut the corporate tax rates from 35 to 25 percent to keep industries and jobs in this country. I won't let a democratic congress raise your taxes and choke the growth of your economy," said McCain.

He also said he intends to nominate judges like justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito "who have proven themselves worthy of our trust that they take as their sole responsibility."

He describes Roberts and Alito as "judges who can be relied upon to respect the values of the people whose rights, laws and property they're sworn to defend."

McCain spoke of Clinton and Obama's plans to withdraw forces from Iraq "based on an arbitrary time table designed for the sake of political expediency and which recklessly ignores a profound human calamity and dire threats to our security that would ensue."

He said he intends to win the war and trust in the proven judgement of U.S. commanders there and the courage and selflessness of the Americans they have the honor to command.

"I share the grief over the terrible losses we've suffered in this prosecution. There is no other candidate in this office who appreciates more than I do just how awful war is. But I know the costs in lives and treasure we would incur, should we fall in Iraq and fail, it would be far greater than the heartbreaking losses we have suffered today, And I will not allow that to happen," McCain said.

He added that in order to defeat the democrats and achieve these goals, he is seeking the help and support of CNMI

"I humbly ask you today even if you previously supported another candidate to join our team so that we can move forward as one party, united, in an effort to lead our country for a better tomorrow," said McCain.

Committee members Ada and Palacios had retained their seats in the local party.

The CNMI Republican National Committee had re-elected Ada and Palacios last night to serve the four-year term.

The board will conduct another general membership meeting in less than two months to elect their new president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Palacios said the group was very pleased with Saturday night's event.

"Things could have been done a little bit different. But we are still very pleased. It was a great first effort," said Palacios.

The group extended appreciation to the students, faculty and staff from the Northern Marianas College for helping with registrations and the counting of last night's ballots.

ERRATUM

In the Feb. 22, 2008, article "Bridge Investment to Open Tinian HQ," certified public accountant Bruce McMillan was erroneously identified as Bruce Mailman. Our apologies.

PULA

From Page 1

resentatives by American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega. The bill proposes to further wage hikes in the CNMI and American Samoa on a determination by the Department of Labor and that such increases will not have an adverse impact on the economies of the places.

Pula said it is usually hard to determine objectively how a proposed minimum wage increase will affect an economy before the raise goes into effect.

"Increases in the minimum wage have numerous, complex impacts on an economy and, generally speaking, create some positive and some negative economic impacts," Pula told the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

"Broad language that would postpone an increase in minimum wage based on a finding of any adverse impact on the respective economies of the CNMI or American Samoa might have the effect of preventing all progress towards a higher minimum wage. Narrower language requiring a determination that the increase will not substantially curtail employment allows more flexibility, but the difficulties for the Secretary of Labor of obtaining reliable information upon which to base any determination will be significant," he added.

Pula said Congress might also consider restoring the special industry committee that set the minimum wage rates biennially in certain areas of the United States and American Samoa for over 60 years.

"The advantage of the committee structure is that it ensures that the people who determine the minimum wage increases share first-hand knowledge of island economies, while representing different stakeholder groups within those economies as well as the public interest," he said.

Compared with the proposal to leave wage hikes up to the Labor secretary, the special industry committee model "offers the advantage of ensuring that local knowledge is fully incorporated and that stakeholders in the territorial economies are able to play significant roles," he added.

The minimum wage rates applicable to American Samoa and the CNMI were increased 50 cents an hour on July 24 and July 25, 2007, respectively. Minimum wages to both jurisdictions will increase by 50 cents until they reach the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour.

For the CNMI, the minimum wage was increased to 50 cents an hour to $3.55 on July 25, 2007, and will rise to $7.25 an hour by 2015.

For American Samoa, current minimum wages vary by industry, with the most significant being the minimum wage for the tuna canning industry, which is currently $3.76 an hour, reflecting the initial 50-cent increase on July 24, 2007. The minimum wage for American Samoa will increase across the board to $7.25 an hour by 2014.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

An officer at the Department of Corrections confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a Japanese named Kazuyoshi Miura has been detained at DOC.

The DOC officer, who requested anonymity, said they received calls from U.S. and Japan about the arrest of Miura. The officer said they are not authorized to release information about the case.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro also confirmed yesterday that she received information that a Japanese national was indeed arrested

Ogumoro said the Attorney General's Investigative Unit is handling the matter. She said a hearing may be conducted today, Monday. She said she has no details about the arrest and the case.

According to the Associated Press, Miura, 60, had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura.

The AP said the verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high courts 10 years ago.

The AP quoted Los Angeles police that Miura was arrested Friday while visiting Saipan after cold-case detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department worked with CNMI and GUAM authorities.

"A murder suspect who has been eluding (the) dragnet has been finally captured," the LAPD said. "Miura's extradition is pending."

According to AP, Miura's attorney Junichiro Hironaka told Japan's Fuji TV late Saturday that the arrest "astonished" him.

"My understanding was that the case was already closed both in Japan and the U.S., especially after their joint investigation," Hironaka said. "It's quite a surprise."

Miura and his wife were visiting Los Angeles on Nov. 18, 1981, when they were shot in a parking lot. Miura was hit in the right leg, while his 28-year-old wife was shot in the head.

His wife remained in a coma and was taken in an Air Force hospital jet to Japan, where she eventually died. Miura blamed street robbers on the attack and railed from his hospital bed against what he called a violent city.

The incident reinforced Japanese stereotypes of violence in the U.S. at a time when Los Angeles was preparing for the 1984 Olympics and was particularly sensitive about its overseas image. The LAPD vowed to find the killers.

Daryl Gates, who was police chief at the time of the killing, said Saturday that Miura was a key suspect even then.

"I remember the case well. I think he killed his wife," said Gates, who had not heard about Miura's arrest before he spoke Saturday afternoon. "We had Japanese police come over; they believed he was guilty, we believed he was guilty, but we couldn't prove it."

Miura, a clothing importer who traveled regularly to the U.S., had said he would write then-President Reagan and then-Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. and urge them to make the city safer.

"Many young Japanese will be coming to the U.S. with their dreams in their hearts," Miura said at the time, according to the Los Angeles Times. "I strongly hope this accident will never occur again."

In 1984, however, Miura's image as a grieving husband was tarnished by a series of news articles in Japan.

Miura reportedly collected about $1.4 million (€940,000) at today's exchange rate on life insurance policies he had taken out on his wife. In addition, an actress who claimed to be Miura's lover told a newspaper that Miura had hired her to kill his wife in their hotel room on a trip to L.A. three months before the shootings.

Miura was arrested in Japan in 1985 on suspicion of assaulting his wife with intent to kill her for insurance money in the hotel incident. He was convicted of attempted murder and while serving a six-year sentence was charged under Japanese law in 1988 with his wife's murder.

Miura was convicted of that charge in 1994 and sentenced to life in prison. Four years later, however, a Japanese high court overturned the sentence, throwing out a lower court's determination that Miura conspired with a friend in Los Angeles to kill his wife.

News of Miura's arrest made front-page headlines in Japan.

"Why now?" asked the Mainichi newspaper.

A duty official at Japan's National Police Agency said that there was no notice from U.S. authorities before the arrest and that the news surprised him. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of internal policy.

After his acquittal in 2003, Miura often spoke publicly about false accusation and hounding media coverage.

He has been arrested at least twice since 2003, most recently on suspicion of stealing health supplements at a drugstore near Tokyo last year. Miura denied the charges and is free on bail. His trial is pending. ***(With reports from Associated Press)***

Cody orders pregnant worker to leave for not looking for job

The Department of Labor has ordered a pregnant alien worker to depart the CNMI for failing to seek a new employer following the closure of a garment factory.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody ruled that the transfer period granted in the prior transfer order for Li Feng Chen has expired and no transfer application has been filed on her behalf.

Cody said the prior transfer order also revoked Chen's work and entry permit.

"In short, Chen no longer has a valid work or immigration status to remain in the CNMI. Therefore, she shall be ordered to depart the CNMI as soon as practicable," Cody said.

Chen, a Chinese worker for the defunct L&S Apparel Corp., is scheduled to give birth on March 30, 2008.

Cody said the prior employer of record (L&S), or its surety, is responsible for providing the airline ticket for the worker's repatriation.

The hearing officer instructed the Labor director to take all necessary steps to secure the airline repatriation ticket for Chen' use and benefit from the former employer or it surety.

"If necessary, government funds may be used as a source of funding for the airline ticket," he said.

Labor records show that Chen was formerly employed by L&S Apparel Corp. After L&S informed Labor that it was closing its operations, the department arranged for all L&S employees to be given an opportunity to find new employers.

On Dec. 19, 2007, Labor administrative hearing officer Herbert D. Soll issued a transfer order granting L&S employees, including Chen, 42 days from Jan. 1, 2008, to submit an application for transfer to a new employer.

Chen was six months pregnant at the time the transfer period began.

At the hearing, Chen admitted that after she received the transfer order, she did not contact any employer to look for work.

When asked why she did not seek a transfer employer, she replied that "it was useless for me (to look for work)…because even normal people cannot find a job."

The Labor director took the position that Chen's request for an extension of the transfer period should be denied because she had had an opportunity to look for work but failed to do so, even though she was capable of being hired.

In his administrative order, Cody said based on the evidence presented, he finds that Chen's request for an extension of her transfer period should be denied.

Cody said the testimony establishes that Chen did not even attempt to look for any work during the 45-day transfer period that just ended on Feb. 14, 2008.

"No evidence or argument has been raised that would justify granting any extension of petitioner's transfer period under these circumstances," he added. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man indicted for 'ice' distribution on Tinian

The U.S. government has indicted a man who was allegedly involved in trafficking crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

Tian Yun Huang, 40, alias Ma, was charged with three counts of distribution of a controlled substance

According to the indictment, Huang distributed .19 grams and 0. 15 grams of "ice" on Jan. 9 and 10, 2008 respectively.

On Jan. 10, 2008, the defendant also distributed 0.05 grams of "ice," the indictment said.

Huang was earlier arrested on the same charges and brought to the U.S. District Court when the U.S. government filed a complaint.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent stated in his report that on Jan. 9, 2008, detectives from the Department of Public Safety debriefed a confidential source (CS) regarding "ice" traffickers on Tinian.

The CS disclosed that a Chinese man known as Ma was distributing "ice" from his residence in Turn Key Housing in San Jose, Tinian.

The special agent said after the conclusion of the investigation, they identified Ma as defendant Huang. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CULTURAL DAY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Marianas High School's Refaluwasch Cultural group perform a traditional Carolinian dance number during the school's 21'st Annual Cultural Day celebration Friday. The festivity features cultural events, songs, dance, and food from different MHS student organization.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING LABOR CASES

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008 first notice
Monday, Feb. 25, 2008 second notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. In particular, if you have wage claims please bring supporting documentation. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Investigator, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing date	Time
06-103	Hong, Fu Hua	American Pacific Textile	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-336	Lin, Deyao	American RF Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-163	Wang, Yanzhen	American Sai Green Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-173	Bernardo, Solina S.	Bema Corporation	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-215	Pesado, M. Mila C.	Cabrera, Rosalie and Aurora Parial	Mar. 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-091	Fan, Zhi Yan	Capital Corporation	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-029	Shi, Changsan	Commonwealth Garment MFG	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-220	Jin, Aifang	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-119	Wu, Liyu	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-016	Xu, Zhang Yu	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147	Yang, Wan Jun	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-383	Zhang, Hairu	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-016	Zhang, Jaijing	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-085	Zhou, Cuixia	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-122	Chen, Meier	Concorde Garment MFG. Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-025 (T)	Fang, Shunfu	Crisostomo, Melvin K.	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-277	Mario, Aquino V.	Cruz, Theresa R.	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-048	Zhang, Qing	Date Corporation	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
02-041	Lin, Yawen	FWL Association, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
02-041	Xu, Zhenlong	FWL Association, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-092	Lu, Jinhong	Happy, Inc.	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-136	Jin, Fenghua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-158	Wang, Ling Fang	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	Mar. 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-295	Esquerra, Antonio D.	Javili General Partnership	Mar. 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-238	Li, Haisen	Long Teng Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-237	Zhou, Yingying	Long Teng Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-213	Lu, Yuhua	Long Tong Corp.	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-275	Lim, Elizabeth P.	Lucky Corporation	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-143	Okawa, Kiyoshi P.	Mabu Corp. dba Ken Restaurant	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-290	Wan, Hongyu	Marianas Garment MFG Inc.	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-008	Zhu, Jin Hong	Michigan, Inc.	Mar. 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-310	Huang, Lingen	MZ Corporation	Mar. 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-271	Weng, Guangxiong	Napias Corp.	Mar. 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-340	Su, Xu	Poong In Saipan, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140	Ding, Guozheng	Rifu Apparel Cor.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-356	Ji, Feng Nu	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-230	Xia, Liying	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-027	Xu, Que Hua	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-281	Zhu, Zhongping	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-339	Ignacio, Gilbert P.	Sablan, Lisa P.	Mar. 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-011	Zeng, Li Ying	Seishin Farm, Inc.	Mar. 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-357	Song, Nai Jun	Song Xu Development Corp.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-311	Zhang, Hua	Success Int'l Corp.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005	Bai, Xa Hong	Taitingfong, Roman A.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-040	Lin, Bing Rong	Taitingfong, Roman A.	Mar. 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-104	Xu, Yuanmei	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-261	Yaekmum, Suthian	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-318	Elloso, Rolando D.C.	Valenzuelas Janitorial	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-284	Piao, Yongzhe	Vision Corporation	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-346	Ren, Tianchen	Walvo Enterprises	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-345	Xu, Qianjun	Walvo Enterprises	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-071	Zhou, Lina	Winners Corporation	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-334	Talukdar, Hari N.	Yun's Corporation	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-294	Miao, Guojun (ER)	Zhang, Hua (EE)	Mar. 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.

2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge

Members of Herman's Bakery team paddle while riding a kayak during the obstacle course event of the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan team members show their strength during the "Tug of War" event of the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

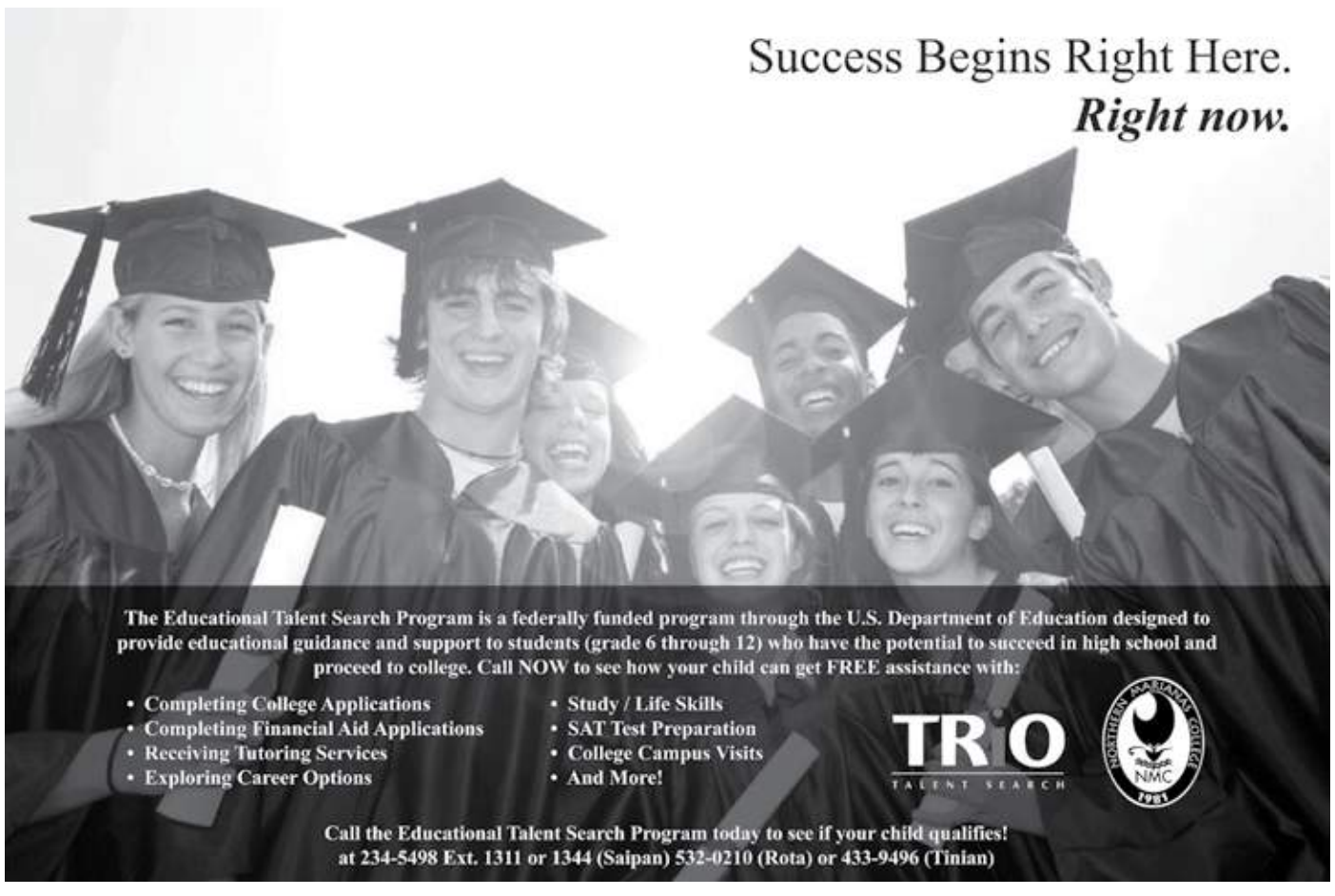
Team members from different companies compete for the "Fear Factor Eating contest" during the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Team members from different companies compete for the "Fear Factor Eating contest" during the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A MARPAC team member pulls himself on a skateboard during the obstacle course event of the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Team Coca Cola compete for the final event of the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Creative 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge trophies made of Coconut husks are displayed during the event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ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Team members of the Moylan's Insurance Underwriters Inc., run together during the obstacle course of this year's inter-company competitive event, the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Math wiz kids from Ladera win

Ladera International School of Saipan students went through major dilemmas, solved immeasurable number of equations, and did whatever measures they have to do prior to entering the actual Math Court last Feb. 2, 2008, held at Marianas High School.

"I gave them lessons, problems and questions they might encounter in the competition to better prepare them for the event," said LISS teacher Rachelle Ong,.

Students said that they had their own preparations. MJ Lee (3rd placer for Geometry) and BJ Park (4th placer for Geometry and 9th placer for Advanced Math) revealed, "We practice at our dorms at night. We read Math books to review for the competition."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The most remarkable performance was observed from Si Woo Kim who won the 1st place in the 8th grade level.

The students contend depending on their grade levels. 6th through 10th graders were the ones who embodied Ladera International School against opposing schools. Katie Jung won 5th place and Kevin Noh took over 7th place for the 7th grade level competition. Myeong Jong Lee won 3rd place and Byung Joon Park won as the 4th placer for the Geometry level. Byung Joon also bagged the 9th placer title in Advanced Math Competition. The most remarkable performance was observed from Si Woo Kim who won the 1st place in the 8th grade level.

According to 8th grade Math Wiz, Si Woo, "first you feel nervous, but then afterwards it's just fine."

Si Woo noted that his toughest rival was someone from SCS, Soo Jin Choi. Both competed for the 1st place and Si Woo prevailed as the victor. "The only difficulty we encountered is that we don't fully understand the English problems", stated LISS Student MJ Lee.

Si Woo Kim awed the horde of competitors with his astounding dexterity in Mental Math. He could answer mathematical questions in a flick of a finger. Ong and the whole Ladera, even the staff of the *Tiger's Gazette*, are very pleased of him.

"He is very intelligent and diligent. He stands out in Math and he unquestionably confirmed it. When asked if he would participate again next year he undeniably answered me with an enthusiastic 'of course.' Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who joined the Math Court, we are very proud of you," said Ong of Kim.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ladera International School of Saipan students who took part in the Math Court last Feb. 2, 2008 held at Marianas High School pose for a photo.

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A. • Phone: (670) 234-5498
Fax: (670) 234-0759 • Web Site: www.nmcnet.edu

Special Board Meeting

Board of Regents Conference Room,
NMC Saipan Campus
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
3:30 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Roll Call

II. Public Comment/ Miscellaneous

III. Old Business
A. WASC Update

IV. New Business
A. Assessment Training
B. BOR Evaluation
C. BOR Matters
D. Legislative Matters

V. Executive Session

At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VI. Adjournment

/s/ Joey P. San Nicolas
Acting Chairperson,
Board of Regents

February 26, 2008
Date

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A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS
Entrance to the Navy Dependent School in Garapan. The two gate posts were left over from the Japanese Girls' School.

Local bands to take part in Tumon Bay Music Festival

The Saipan Community School Advanced Band will be participating at the 4th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam from March 11 to 15, 2008. This event will be held at Hotel Okura and will be featuring Guam's private, public, military, and community school choirs, rock and jazz ensembles, hand bell choirs, string ensembles, concert bands and orchestras.

This year will be the first time any band from Saipan will be participating. In addition to the SCS Advanced Band, the Southern High School Manta Ray Band, led by Maestro Will DeWitt, will be participating for the High School Level. The SCS Advanced Band will be judged according to the Middle School Level.

The Saipan Community School Advanced Band is an 18-piece band consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The band strives to perform music of all styles and genres that are fun and challenging for the students and entertaining for all types of audiences.

The group will be performing three times in the festival. First, as an ensemble group, in which instrumental sections of the band will be featured. Second, as a Concert Band, in which the whole band performs different arrangements of music. And third, as a "featured musicians" group, in which students opt to do an individual or ensemble piece. Moreover, the students will be visiting and performing with the DODEA Middle School Band in Anderson Air Force Base, and will be participating in a Band Clinic, headed by Conductor Atsushi Ozawa, a well-known music director from Japan.

The students and faculty are thrilled to be part of this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival!

Mindy Song, an 8th grader and a clarinetist said, "This is my last year in SCS, and I am very excited to go on this trip! The band worked very hard, and I hope it will unite our band even closer than before. This trip will be one of the most unforgettable memories I had in the school!"

Rebekah Lee, David Kim, Momoko Nishikido, and Jian Joyner, also graduating Band students, remarked that they were looking forward to this trip.

Christina A. Nierras, the band director of SCS, offered this trip as an opportunity for them who have been committed to band since they were in the 4th grade. All in all, the SCS staff definitely wants this to be a memorable experience and a wonderful musical exchange opportunity for the Band students.

The Saipan Community School Advanced Band and the Southern High School Manta Ray Band will be performing a send-off concert on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, at Charley's Cabaret, PIC at 7pm. There will be no entrance fee for this event, but donations will be very much appreciated. This concert is for honoring the families, friends, and sponsors, who have supported the schools on this trip. ***(SCS)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Community School Advanced Band will take part in the 4th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam set from March 11 to 15, 2008.

School books, supplies donated to remote Pacific Island

COLUMBIA, South Carolina—The Habele Outer Island Education Fund announced today that it mailed over a dozen boxes of school supplies, textbooks, and instructional materials to the Atoll of Eauripik in Yap State, Micronesia.

The Atoll of Eauripik is comprised of several small islands surrounding a shallow lagoon and located between the state capitals of Yap Proper and Chuuk lagoon just north of the Equator in the Central Pacific.

The remote island receives only two or three visits from a government supply ship during the course of a year. The island is home to roughly three hundred people. Subsistence fishing and agriculture are the foundation of the local economy. This collection of books and supplies is part of our effort to support public schools in the most isolated parts of the Pacific, explained Marc McNamara, a member of Habeles board of directors and a former Peace Corps volunteer.

"We have communicated with educators on Eauripik and sent them texts that will compliment their efforts, as well as provide community members with recreational reading opportunities. In addition to a collection of up to date reference books, the donations include several sets of complete class sets of textbooks so that each child will be able to follow instruction and complete homework assignments with their own book," he said.

Expanding academic opportunity and promoting educational accomplishment is an essential first step in promoting individual, island, and national sovereignty, said McNamara.

Through scholarships to private schools and material donations to public schools, Habele is working with the Outer Island Communities to meet this goal.

In last two years, Habele has mailed similar donations to the islands of Ulithi and Fais. The Fund has also awarded nearly $5,000 in scholarships to students from the Outer Islands of Micronesia attending boarding schools in the district capitals. Habele consists of donors and volunteers from throughout the United States and the Pacific. The Fund has no paid employees and is still seeking support for its ongoing public school book drives and scholarships. Visit www.habele.org to learn more. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 25, 2000

FAA: No funds yet for Rota airport runway
Improvement of the Rota International Airport runway may take longer due to the unavailability of federal funds that will facilitate major infrastructure projects in CNMI air transport facilities, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. In a letter addressed to Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona, FAA Airports District Office Acting Manager Daniel S. Matsumoto said there is not enough funds available under the Airport Improvement Program to finance the island's request for runway surface treatment.

More CDA loans for Tinian, Rota pressed
In fresh efforts to revitalize the islands' dormant economy, local officials yesterday asked the Commonwealth Development Authority to put more emphasis on loan applications submitted by local businessmen from Tinian and Rota. Mayor Fransciso Borja said Tinian and Rota businessmen need special considerations from the CDA administration, citing the islands' still struggling economies compared with that of Saipan where the market is almost saturated.

House okays hiring of lobby firm
The CNMI House of Representatives yesterday adopted a recommendation from its federal and foreign relations committee to hire a professional advocacy company in Washington D.C. to beef up Commonwealth's lobbying efforts against federal takeover legislation. Attempts by the federal government to extend American labor and immigration laws in the Northern Marianas gained grounds when the U.S. Senate passed S.1052 which seeks to enforce U.S. minimum wage and the Immigration and Naturalization Act in the islands.

February 25, 2002

Say hello to Chinese travelers
Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Chair Michael Kwan and China Southern Air signed a contract for a direct charter flight from China to Saipan starting April 19, 2002. In an interview, Kwan disclosed that executives of China Southern Air agreed to start its direct service flights from Guangzhou, China to Saipan when they signed the contract on February 20, 2002.

Warning raised vs. butane gas abuse among NMI kids
Sniffing gas, particularly butane, among school-aged children is feared to be compounding the community's string of substance abuse problems, disclosed a group of educators and mental health experts. Authorities have sounded the alarm on what appears to be a growing epidemic of butane gas abuse among school students-a vice believed to be more lethal than tobacco and alcohol consumption.

Korean Air: No additional flights to NMI yet
Korean Airlines dismissed the possibility of increasing flight frequency to Saipan as the carrier continues to battle against rising operational expenses from its daily air transport service between Seoul and Saipan. Korean Air Managing Vice President Kwan Soon Chang disclosed Thursday that direct flights to Saipan have been costing the airline company huge amounts of money.

February 25, 2003

Govt wants share in Verizon deal
House lawmakers are wooing Manila-based Citadel Holdings Inc. to partner with the CNMI government in the bid to buy the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. from Verizon, following the pullout of the Tan Holdings Corp. from the drawn-out purchase. Reps. Joseph Deleon Guerrero and Andrew S. Salas reported yesterday that they had just returned from a weeklong trip to the Philippines, where they had floated the proposal to the Delgado family-the majority shareholder of Pacific Telecom Inc., which won the bid to buy Verizon's assets in the CNMI.

Council supports amending Social Security Act
The CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities threw its support behind the measure that would amend the existing Social Security Act to remove the cap on Medicaid payments for five US island-territories. The council reiterated its call to President Bush to support House Resolution No. 675 and sign it into law once it makes it through the U.S. Congress. The council had expressed the same support to a similar measure that was introduced in the previous U.S. Congress but failed to pass into law.

Pacific

Military investigating B-2 crash in Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Air Force was investigating the first crash of a costly B-2 stealth bomber after one plunged to the ground shortly after beginning the last flight of a four-month deployment.

Both pilots ejected safely Saturday, though one was being transferred to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu to be treated for spinal compression, said Tech. Sgt. Tom Czerwinski of Pacific Air Force's public affairs office in Hawaii.

Four of the bombers were taking off at the end of deployment to Andersen Air Force Base, officials said. At least one had taken off safely but was brought back after the crash.

The distinctive, bat-like B-2 is described as a "multi-role bomber" that blends stealth technology with a highly efficient aerodynamic design. It is able to deliver large payloads at great range and has been used in combat over Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Each costs about $1.2 billion to build. The three that did not crash were being kept on Guam, said Maj. Eric Hilliard at Hickham Air Force Base in Hawaii.

There were no injuries on the ground or damage to buildings, and no munitions were on board.

A board of officers is investigating what caused the 10:30 a.m. crash, the first by a B-2 bomber, said Capt. Sheila Johnston, a spokeswoman for Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

All 21 stealth bombers are based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, but the Air Force has rotated several of them through Guam since 2004, along with B-1 and B-52 bombers.

The B-2 was first publicly displayed in 1988 and took its first flight a year later. The first bomber was delivered to Whiteman in 1993.

The bombers on Guam had been scheduled to return to Missouri now that six B-52s from the 96th Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, Lousiana, have arrived to replace them.

The accident occurred 11 days after a Navy plane crashed into the ocean about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Guam's Ritidian Point. Four aircrew members ejected from the EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare aircraft and were rescued by helicopter.

Guam is a U.S. territory 3,700 miles (5954 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii.

AP

Smoke billows from the runway at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam Saturday Feb. 23, 2008 after a B-2 stealth bomber crashed.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

French Polynesia assembly speaker re-elected

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—French Polynesia's assembly has re-elected Edouard Fritch of the Tahoeraa Huiraatira Party as assembly president. Mr Fritch defeated the candidate of the Union For Democracy, Antony Geros, who secured only 21 of the assembly's 57 votes. His election came after days of inconclusive talks among pro-autonomy politicians in the lead-up to today's session which opened late because of ongoing negotiations. But when the sitting opened it emerged that the Tahoeraa had decided to support the bid by the To Tatou Aia coalition to form the next government. As part of the apparent deal, Mr Fritch's candidacy was announced by the To Tatou Aia leader, Gaston Tong Sang. However, one member of the 37-strong so-called pro-autonomy bloc went to Mr Geros. The election of a president will be held in two days . It is not known if Oscar Temaru of the Union For Democracy will seek re-election.

Niue premier visits fisheries agency in Solomons

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star)—Niue Premier Young Vivian yesterday visited the Forum Fisheries Agency at East Kolaridge. Mr Vivian is the second Forum Leader to recently visit the agency. It is part of an initiative to highlight the importance of the organisation's work managing the rich tuna resources of its 17 Pacific members. Cook Islands Prime Minister Jim Marurai spent two days at the Secretariat earlier this month. Mr Vivian met Director-General Taniela Su'a, before the Forum leader was hosted to a lunch with staff. Among the highlights of his visit was a 30-minute presentation by staff on the agency's activities and work programme. Mr Vivian later visited the agency's Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre. There he was also briefed on the Vessel Monitoring System, a compliance tool for foreign boats registered to fish in the waters of Forum Fisheries members.

Futuna airport project angers area residents

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia (Oceania Flash)—Upgrading works on Futuna island's Vele airport are facing resistance from local residents who are strongly opposing their necessary eviction. The eviction process concerns six properties located near or on the site of the proposed runway extension. However, some are still refusing to leave, invoking traditional or family reasons. An angry resident who is also facing eviction told local television RFO he was not consulted and that he believed only houses located at the end of the runway were to be razed, but not his. The airport extension, under French funding of some US$8.5 million, was initially scheduled to be completed in December 2008. The extension is also supposed to alleviate the perceived isolation of Futuna Island and its dependency on neighboring Wallis for international connections. Futuna islanders have recently claimed they were too often neglected in French development projects.

PNG's OK Tedi mine posts $1B income

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier)—Papua New Guinea is among major beneficiaries as copper/gold miner Ok Tedi Mining Limited records income of PGK5 billion [US$1 billion] for the year ended December 31, 2007.

This is compared to PGK4.64 billion earned in 2006.

Dividends paid by the Western Province based mine from last year's earnings totaled PGK1.4 billion [US$517 million] of which PGK1.2 billion [US$444 million] was for the benefit of PNG interests including the State. Total taxes and dividends for the year were close to PGK1.3 billion.

OTML said in its "Summary of key results" that full year sales revenue was PGK5 billion, 8 percent higher than 2006 reflecting sustained high copper prices, 12 percent higher average gold price and 7 percent higher volume of concentrate shipments.

Net profit was PGK2.04 billion compared to PGK1.88 billion for 2006.

Total gold production for the company was 498,790 ounces which was 9 percent lower than 2006 production but maintained to keep OTML among the top three PNG gold producers. The company also reported that net cash generated last year before dividends was down on the previous year due to the combined effect of higher spending on capital projects, timing issues on the payment of income tax relating to other years and a large increase in working capital. OTML also reported that mining royalties were 11 percent lower than 2006 with the Fly River Provincial Government and mine area landowners each receiving PGK45 million. On the expenditure, OTML paid PGK58 million in other compensation during the year which included land lease payments, trusts and Community Mine Continuation Agreements (CMCA). "Mid-term CMCA review was successfully finalized during 2007 and involved over 500 villages and regional meetings with independent facilitators and observers," the company said.

"Agreement was reached on a four-fold increase in payments by OTML as part of an overall increased benefits package totaling just over PGK1 billion."

The company also said that the mine waste and tailings project to remove pyrite from mine tailings, thus reducing future impacts on the river system was approved by the Government and was currently under construction.

Commissioning of the plant is due to start in July.

Ok Tedi realised an average copper price for the period of US$3.35 (PGK9.86) per pound, compared to US$3.24 (PGK9.54) for 2006.

OTML's shareholders are PNG Sustainable Development Program Limited (52 percent), Inmet Mining Ltd (18 percent) and the National PNG Government (30 percent). The PNG Government holds equity directly (15 percent), and on behalf of the Western Province (12.5 percent) and landowners from the mine area (2.5 percent).

New Britain keeps wary eye on simmering volcano

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier)—Ash emissions continued at Mount Tavurvur [on the island province of New Britain, Papua New Guinea] early this week.

Reports from the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory stated that thick dark gray ash changed to pale gray late Tuesday afternoon. Ash clouds rose about 1 kilometer above the summit before being blown east of the volcano mainly over the sea and towards southern Duke of York Islands.

Air Niugini suspended all it's flights on Wednesday due to nocturnal ash fall on the runway on Tuesday. Civil Aviation Authority Airport Manager Bill Burua said that the flights would resume after the situation returned to normal.

"We are closely monitoring the volcano's movements and the length of the suspension of flights would depend on the ash fall," said Mr. Burua.

The RVO report stated that occasional loud roaring noises were heard on Tuesday night. An orange glow was reportedly accompanied by weak projections of lava fragments at night. Seismic activity continued at a high level with low frequency earthquakes. It stated that low frequency earthquakes occur as a result of movement of steam or gas through the neck or conduit of the volcano following heavy rains throughout the week.

The current activity at Mount Tavurvur is not unusual being the typical low level activity that had been periodically occurring for the past 13 years.

The report stated that small to moderate ash emissions was expected to continue with the wind directing areas receiving ash fall.

The public were advised keep out of the ash plumes and not venture close to the volcano due to possible rock ejected by the mild explosions.

Solomons leader urges return to democracy in Fiji

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star)—Solomon Islands Prime Minister Derek Sikua has called on the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) countries to look into Fiji's political situation during their April meeting.

Dr Sikua said Fiji's political situation should be the main issue in the upcoming MSG meeting.

He said he wanted the meeting to find ways to assist Fiji's return to democracy as the country prepares for its national elections in March next year.

The April MSG meeting will be Dr Sikua's first since becoming Prime Minister.

Dr Sikua said it is important Fiji as a MSG member is politically stable in order to maintain solidarity between member countries.

"Also, it is important that MSG countries help Fiji before moving onto other development issues that are related to the MSG trade agreements," he said.

The MSG meeting was scheduled for last year but was deferred following the delay in the set up of the MSG Secretariat and the Moti saga.

MSG member countries are Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Serbia's thugs

A Serbian leader delivered another demonstration Thursday of why it was necessary for NATO and the United Nations to intervene to protect the province of Kosovo and then to guide it to independence. Appearing before a large rally in Belgrade orchestrated to protest Kosovo's independence declaration on Sunday, Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica incited Serbs against the United States and other governments that had recognized the new state. Then his police melted away from the center of the city, allowing an organized group of masked thugs to attack the U.S. Embassy, where they broke in and set a fire. The embassies of Croatia, Turkey, Bosnia, Belgium, Germany and Britain were also attacked.

When Undersecretary of State R. Nicholas Burns called Kostunica to demand protection for the U.S. Embassy, the prime minister duly offered promises. Yet his behavior hardly differed from that of Slobodan Milosevic, the strongman who spent the 1990s stoking an ugly strain of Serbian nationalism, inciting his compatriots against their neighbors and then portraying himself as a victim when violence erupted. Milosevic's tactics caused the breakup of Yugoslavia, a horrific civil war in Bosnia and finally the NATO intervention in Kosovo, where years of state-sponsored persecution of the Albanian majority culminated in an ethnic cleansing campaign by Serbian soldiers and police.

Kostunica portrays himself as a champion of Serbia's continuing claim to Kosovo, where Serbs make up less than 10 percent of the population. His incitement of the attacks on embassies may have been part of an effort to dissuade other governments from joining the more than a dozen countries that have recognized Kosovo's independence. Yet the only consequence of his actions will be to isolate Serbia — again — from the rest of Europe and freeze — again — the modernization of its creaky post-communist economy. The winner will be Russia, which would like Serbia to join Belarus as an isolated and impoverished dependency, and which has been doing its best to encourage Serb extremism.

The odd thing about all this is that Kostunica's platform of rejecting the West was defeated in a national election held just two weeks ago. The winner of that election, President Boris Tadic, has a mandate to lead Serbia toward joining the liberal democracies of the European Union in spite of Kosovo's independence. Tadic, who was out of the country on Thursday, said Friday that the attacks on embassies must "never happen again." That will be the case only if Tadic finally leverages the Serbian majority against the poisonous nationalist posturing of those such as Kostunica.

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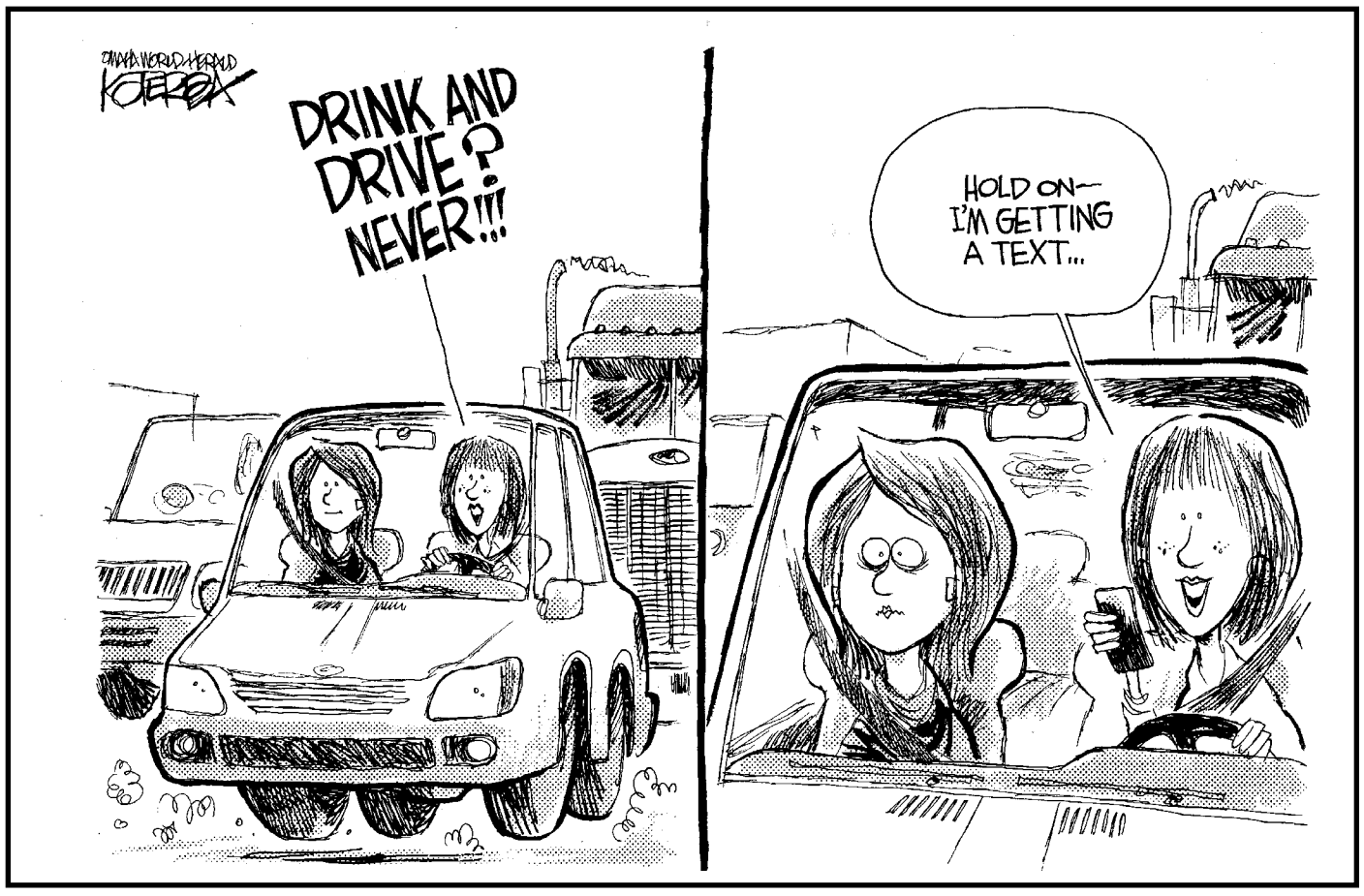


Robbed by our fellow citizens Part II

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Let's look at several cases. See how many you recognize. Also think about why no one in the government is concerned about collecting the money that has been stolen. Remember these are cases that the OPA carefully investigated and turned over to the Attorney General's Office or to the proper agency for action.

After reviewing them, ask why is the thief getting away with this corruption? This is money that rightfully belongs to us the citizens of the CNMI. Yet why is there not a concerted effort being made to collect this money? I thought I heard someone say that the government is short of funds.

On June 30, 2007, the Office of the Public Auditor asked the Attorney General's Office for legal action to recover monies improperly expended. To date nothing has been done to recover a cent. The amount of this money is approximately **$2,585,390.00!** Who got it? Read on.

1. The Tinian Gambling Casino Commission gave out **$739,346.00**, since 1999. This was for overpayment to a consultant. Does anyone know the name of this man? Hmm! The case involves unjust enrichment, conversion, fraud and breach of fiduciary duty. There is also recovery of **$195,971.00**, due from three other individuals for breach of fiduciary trust. Why no action, Ask the Attorney General.

2. The Tinian Gambling Casino Commission gave out another **$159.971.00.** The case is pending since 2002, for excessive travel transactions for fiscal years 1996 to 2001. Why no action yet?

Note: $739,346.00 + $159,971.00 + 195,971.00 = $ 1,095,288.00. Did I read the other day about Tinian being short of funds? Also I recall someone telling me that casino gambling would profit Tinian. It certainly has for several individuals.

3. The CNMI government overpaid professional services contracts. This amounts to overpayments totaling **$1,315,102.00**. No action taken. Ask the AGO why not.

4. Department of Public Works made improper payments of **$100,000.00** to a surveying contractor for misrepresentation relating to the Tinian road resurfacing project in 1997. No action yet. Ask the AGO.

5. A former Secretary of Finance misused (I like that word) **$75,000** during the fiscal years of 1995 to 1997.A civil case is pending 11 years later!? Why isn't he in jail? Ask the AGO.

I have mentioned only a few cases but all of them were referred to the Attorney General's Office where little or no action is being taken. Yet this group of crooks got away with **$2,585,390.00**. Why aren't they in jail? Who said crime doesn't pay? In the CNMI, it is big business.

Now let's look at the potential recovery of **$3,700,000.00** which hinges on various government agencies' actions. Though the OPA has repeatedly requested through follow up processes, OPA has not received an update on the status of recovery of these misused funds by any of the agencies involved. As recent as Dec. 31, 2007, no action has been taken and probably never will. Why not?

1. MPLA made double payments **of $115,862.33**, for travel expenses and overpaid per diem allowances to the former Board Chairman, a Tinian board member and a Rota board member for the period September 1992 to September 1994. No action here either. Why not?

2. CNMI paid a promissory note for $96,100.00, on overpayment for two professional contracts. No action taken to recover. Why not?

3. Department of Finance funds amounting to **$56,462.00**, misused (again that word) by the former Secretary of Finance from fiscal years 1995 to 1997. Eleven years later! Why no action?

4. CNMI government overpaid **$15,079.00** to contractors for four professional service contracts covering the period October 1991 to 1995. Kiss that money goodbye. Why no action?

5. The Marianas Public Lands Authority failed to collection **$3,743,740.00**, rentals from **eight** quarry operators for six lease years from 1990 to 1995. It actually totaled $4,690,708.00, but the MPLA had to write off $946,968.00 because one of the operators went bankrupt. That amount is only pocket change so why bother trying to make collections. Right? Why no action?

The provisions of 1 CMC 2307 established the Interagency Audit Coordinating Group consisting of the presiding officer and minority leaders of each house of the Legislature, the Secretary of Finance, and the Special Assistant for Management and Budget. According to the law this Coordinating Group is to review all audit reports of the Public Auditor. But guess what?

They have all been so busy that this small matter of collecting delinquent money is not important. They have not met since 2000! Hey, **$6,435,557.00** is small change. We're busy. Why bother, right?

There isn't enough space here to go into the many more corrupt stealing cases of government money. I recently heard of one guy that walked away without paying over $1,000,000.00 for lease land fees on government property. There is much more. To learn more about it, call the OPA office or check your web page and type in CNMI Office of the Public Auditor. It's disgusting that we keep allowing this to happen.

What keeps us from going after these crooks? Don't we care? Yet we keep crying we don't have enough money**. I have repeatedly stated that the lack of money is not the reason why problems are not solved. It is our lack of will and strong desire to resolve them.**

As of June 30,2007, 60 total recommendations were tracked for the year. Only one was closed as recommended. That means that 59 of them are still being neglected. And they never will be closed. Want to bet?

I don't know why I even bother writing about the above subject since no one else seems to care. As I mentioned earlier, the government has done a great job of making sure that the OPA has no

See ROBBED on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A day in Metro Manila

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

One of the features of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport of Metro Manila, which I had forgotten since my last arrival in 2000, is the picture of airport personnel outnumbering passengers. Nor do I recall any place in the world where greeters get to meet you before you pass through immigration and customs. But this time, I was pleasantly surprised to find the exit out of the arrival section was not only orderly, it was devoid of the throng that used to pounce on an unwary passenger who steps out to inhale the *esteros*-scented air of the Philippines' premier city.

It could have been simply because it was the wee hours of the morning. Or, the decent growth rate of the economy has what used to be spectator sport for some, and sleight-of-hands commercial opportunity for others, become no longer an occasion for those legitimately employed. Or, a better police control of the hangers-on who used to overpopulate the exit lanes of the international airport is in place. Either way, it was a new experience to enter the country without feeling that one had to exercise distributive justice with one's meager resource on the first 20 minutes on one's beloved land.

This was not the only drastic but happy change I experienced since my last trip to Manila. The hotel where I had my booking advertised a 10-minute travel time between the airport and the old Malate entertainment area (Manila's version of HK's Susie Wong Wan Chai district in the '60s). I thought it was creative advertising, but the traffic was such that I was indeed at the hotel's doorstep within 15 minutes. The flyovers were helpful and I was pleased.

Used to frequenting the fresh air of the Micro beach-American Memorial Park pathway, I rose up early to walk along Roxas Blvd. thinking of cleaning out the stale air in my respiratory chambers. I had forgotten about the stench out of Manila Bay and the hovering carbon monoxide that smogged the Pearl of the Orient's skies. Twenty minutes into the walk, my head was reeling with a splitting headache, my body's response to the city's exhaust fumes.

My previous hangout, the old Midtown Plaza on Pedro Gil (formerly, Herran), is under renovation but the Robinson shopping complex next door signified the manifest character of the new Pinoy—personae *counsumero* par excellence. The place catered to a wide range of tastes, from the boutique shoppers to the Divisoria bargain denizens, but from everyone, there was evidently money to be spent, and it was in abundant display.

The high-tech quality of the place was teeming with flashing lights vitality. Grannies and kiddies, and all ages in between, were text messaging. Everyone was equipped with a mobile phone. A friendly taxi driver I took even handed me his number in case I needed transport should I want to be wild and naughty. Teenagers at the Mall were sporting the latest phone camera accessories. There were a few Blackberrys and iPhones in the predominantly middle class clientele. Smart phones were as plentiful as betel nut at the Subalu market!

In my haste out of Saipan, I forgot my Mac Book's power adapter so I went to Makati's vaunted Greenbelt III shops. Sure enough, along with the business power lunch places, Apple deigned to park a sparkling authorized reseller. Still without the new AirMac laptop, it was nevertheless stocked with sufficient goodies to want me to hang on the plastic card as tightly as my Ilocano non-wastrel hands could hold.

What I had was a customer service moment. First, they would not open the box of the adapter so that I could check if it worked. I had to pay for it first. A faithful and longtime user of Apple products, I relented. After the green card was swiped and the store assured of its commission, we finally opened the unit. It was the right one save the electrical connection. I needed the simple half-an-inch two-pronged plug common in American homes. The box had the connection for the Asian market, two three-pronged gizmos like the 220v connection I have with my Aircon at home, slightly smaller than the huge one on my electric range. So I asked for one similar to the one I left behind. They did have it but I had to pay extra. I offered the 220v gizmos for a fair trade but the store manager could not understand the fallacy of charging me with a product I did not need, and selling me a product I could not use without its electrical connection.

I canceled the whole transaction. The store manager offered a 5-percent discount on the unit rationalizing that since it was already open, she was allowed to sell it at a markdown.

Of course, she also made it clear that she was doing me a favor by giving me the discount though it still translated to a debit of additional $9 on me but calculating the fare to the other store in San Juan, and the time involved since I hung out the Mall since 9am, a good two hours before the stores opened, I decided to pay up. Now, I have cables that will not be of use to me unless I find myself in the outback of Australia, or in a caravan trek through Urumqi, or on a train stop in Ulan Bator.

Then, off to the Chinese Consulate at the World Center on Puyat Ave. (formerly Buendia to old hands) to apply for a visa. The recording on the phone advised service time between 1pm to 4pm; I got there to discover that applications were accepted from 9am to 11am. The security guard at the building apologized profusely saying that it had been a while since they changed their schedule but "they should really change that telephone recording." (The Consulate redeemed itself the following day with the efficiency displayed at the processing windows.)

Malate has become the Mecca for the low-end of the HR recruiting offices, particularly for the Islamic nations, gauging from the numerous ads. My *amiga's* niece who just passed her nursing board exam could not wait to come to Saipan for her NCLEX so that she could join the ranks of the *Pinoy* diaspora, from Riyadh to Anchorage, and all points east-west in between. Oy, vey, Maria, but the OFWs have indeed saved the faltering PI economy.

Still, the layers of socio-economic classes in my cursory observation was too confined and unbalanced for comfort. In my list, there are the a) mansion dwellers, b) hotel occupants, high powered consultants, c) gated home owners, *illustrados* and landed elegantry, d) upper middle class professionals, doctors and lawyers, e) middle class professionals, and *kurakot* political appointees, f) middle class entrepreneurs, business people, g) public service functionaries, civil servants and political appointees, h) lower class salaried career personnel, i) hand-to-mouth wage earners, j) struggling straggles and lifeline jugglers, and the k) down and out destitutes.

That's a list of 11 categories. The first seven constitute 15 percent of the population but consume 85 percent of the resources; the last four is 85 percent of the population but consumes only 15 percent of the resources. This to me constitute the moral contradiction of the archipelago, a land of talent and plenty, gifts and graces, but also of despair and destitution. Nothing stands out as a contrast more than the shiny towering five-star hotels surrounded by shantytown dwellings, the spanking Mercedes Benz navy blue against the sputtering tricycle along the *esquenitas* of Manila.

Back to distributive justice which no one cares to deal with. Forty percent of the government budget pays for interest on existing loans; 40 percent of the gross national product is remittances from contract workers abroad. Ergo, the nation leans on the floor-scrubbing citizen nannies and others working abroad. Some reside in Chamorro homes on Saipan's shores!

A young boy in Malate approached with a bundle of pink roses he was selling. He had gone early to the Dangwa bus station to buy a dozen or two of the flowers and will make a high of $5 should he be able to sell two dozen at half a buck each. That's his activity in addition to going to school and caring for Mama. He had a lively disposition and is not dismayed that he never met his Israeli father, nor expect to ever do so. But he is not overwhelmed by his situation. He sweats for honest pesetas.

We could not say the same with the alleged occupying new kleptocrats at the Palace and their minions. Would that they operate out of the same ethos as the young boy with his enterprise with the flowers.

A bright spot on the day's evening came when bravely navigating the MRT/LRT from Pedro Gil in Malate to Katipunan in QC, I was delighted to traverse the distance at 25 minutes against what used to be a two-hour journey. Now, that is progress. There is hope.

Letters to the Editor

Kudos to Sen. Felix Mendiola

We applaud and commend Sen. Felix Mendiola for introducing a resolution against the fast-tracked federal legislation for we are now even more optimistic in the battle for a STAY on the federal legislation H.R. 3079 now included in S. 2483.

We always advocated that the involvement of Allan Stayman behind this whole federal issue has been nothing but a vindictive motive and a personal agenda against the people of the CNMI and it's also unfortunate that he opted to use human rights advocates such as Wendy Doromal, Sister Stella Mangonan, Dekada and Human Dignity people to lobby for such a federal legislation.

Innocent people were used to cater to Mr. Allen Stayman's personal vindictive motive. Right now, we all need to work together and build a working relationship with the federal government for everyone in our homeland is suffering. A STAY on the federal legislation will open that door to a more positive solution and lets all stop this bickering and personal attacks in the media for it is a Sensitive issue.

Gregorio Cruz
President TAOTAO TANO

In defense of Ms. Warfield

Rarely do I write publicly to voice any concern or opinion about recent events. However, in the case of Rep. Stanley Torres's demand to remove Rebecca Warfield from her position, please let me say that I feel his demands are unwarranted and disgraceful.

I've known Ms. Warfield as a personal friend for the past several years, and have never seen anything that would lead to Mr. Torres' insulting accusations.

It appears to me that his issue with her is that she is not "local" more than anything else. If any other person on this island, legislators and politicians included, were to be seen at happy hour, or being social with a group of his/her peers, no one would even look or think twice.

Ms. Warfield is working hard to make this community a better place for all of us to live, and I personally commend her for a job well done. She is an asset to the Governor's cabinet and she and her family are welcome here as members of this community. I feel I speak for many of us living here, whatever our nationality or origin, that she is professional in every sense of the word.

Roberta Guerrero
Gualo Rai

ROBBED

From Page 10

legal authority to press charges after it finishes its investigations. It appears that it keeps the OPA around as a show and tell agency to impress outsiders. I feel sorry for the Director and his staff.

I come to one sad conclusion why almost $6.5 million of stolen money is still unaccounted for and no one cares. The conclusion is that all of these crooks have close relatives. As a result they have a license to steal from the general public. It's called "nepotism," or simply put—family members.

Frankly speaking, nepotism is one of the real culprits why the CNMI is slowly sinking. We allow and tolerate these and many other things to go on because we are all related. Good for the one with strong relatives, but bad for the one with no relatives. After all how can you turn in one of your relatives? Perhaps some of the relatives are enjoying a cut from the stolen money. Wish I had a large connected local family.

The most interesting thought about all these corrupt practices is that it is all local money that has been and is being stolen. Not one cent is Federal. Can you imagine if it were US funds? They would have been vacationing in jail a long time ago. The government never procrastinates on settling regular criminal cases. Yet when it comes to corruption, the reply is always, "We are looking into it." What years later?! Wow! What a lame excuse for doing nothing.

If you feel I am wrong, please set me straight. You can take my articles on "Robbed by Our Fellow Citizens" and call them BS, or you can say it's time to go after these crooks who have stolen so boldly from us and make them pay up. It's up to you. I only mention the facts here. If you still have doubts why the United States wants Federalization in the CNMI, re-read the two articles as proof as one of the main reasons. It shows again that we repeatedly fail to regulate ourselves.

Consider Benjamin Franklin's words: "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of a master….Nothing is of more importance for the common welfare than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue."

And let us recall the words of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he reminds us: "Without a moral and spiritual wakening there is no hope for us."

Wake up! Strike back! Jail the crooks! Stop the corruption now!

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲80º ▼74º	▲80º ▼75º	▲82º ▼75º	▲82º ▼75	▲82º ▼76º

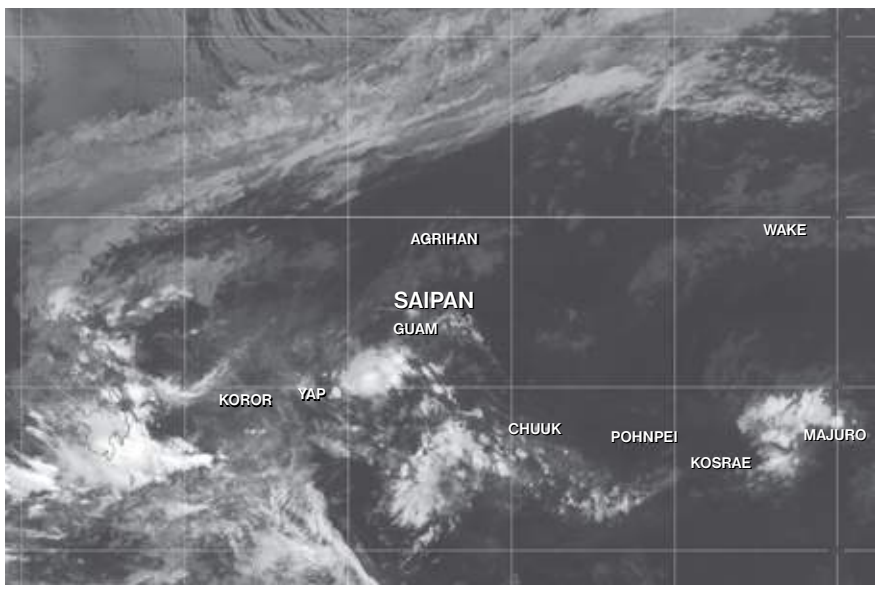
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼74
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼60
Beijing	Cloudy	▲45	▼26
Hong Kong	Showers	▲71	▼63
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
London	Cloudy	▲52	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼51
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼54
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼35
Osaka	Cloudy	▲40	▼36
Paris	Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Pusan	Rain	▲44	▼31
Rome	Cloudy	▲61	▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲53	▼33
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼47
Seoul	Rain/Snow	▲40	▼26
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼35
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲54	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEB. 24, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs west-southwestward from 20N180 to south of Wake Island at 18N175E then to 14N157E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N149E to 20N130E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the front, including Iwo-to. A surface trough south of Koror extends southeastward from 3N130E to EQ135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring between the equator and a line from 7N130E to 6N135E to the equator at 140E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area bounded by a line from 9N138E to 1N144E to 6N152E to 14N142E back to 9N138E including Yap. A trade-wind disturbance north of Majuro is producing scattered showers between 5N and 10N from 165E to 170E. This area includes Kwajalein.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:12AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:06AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
04:53PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:47PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37AM	6:24PM
Tuesday	6:37AM	6:24PM
Wednesday	6:36AM	6:24PM
Thursday	6:35AM	6:24PM
Friday	6:35AM	6:24PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	09:48PM	08:55AM
Tuesday	10:37PM	09:32AM
Wednesday	11:28PM	10:11AM
Thursday		10:54AM
Friday	12:20AM	11:40AM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Saipan-Shanghai			
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Shanghai-Saipan			
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Governors: Include coal in energy debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Governors pushing alternative energy development are not shying from coal, a major culprit in global warming but also a homegrown energy source and an economic lifeline for many states.

Leaders of coal-rich states say clean-coal technology is a must. Governors from states without coal want more evidence the technology works.

"There's no doubt there's a tension and there's no doubt there is very rapidly growing public opposition to coal," said Gov. Jim Doyle, D-Wis. His state relies heavily on coal for power although Wisconsin is not a coal producer.

Energy tops the agenda at the governors' annual winter meeting. The group's new clean energy initiative seeks to promote renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Next-generation coal is going to need to continue to be part of our energy future for this country," said GOP Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, chairman of the National Governors Association.

"It is abundant, it is available, it is Americanized in the sense that we control the supply," he said Saturday. "We would be incomplete and doing a disservice to the debate and the ultimate policy direction that we're going to take if we don't envision coal being part of that."

Next-generation coal typically refers to capturing and somehow sequestering or storing the carbon that coal produces. It also envisions reducing or eliminating emissions as coal is burned.

Pawlenty has embraced renewable fuels such as corn-based ethanol and conservation, but he also promotes clean-coal technology.

Such technology is a rallying cry for many coal-producing states. They say it is possible to continue relying on the fossil fuel while minimizing its impact on the environment.

Gov. Ed Rendell, D-Pa., envisions an economic turnaround if clean-coal technology takes off.

AP

National Governors Association chairman, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, speaks during the opening news conference of the National Governors Association winter meeting Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, in Washington.

"Coal states would be back in business big time and the economies would flourish," said Rendell, the association's vice chairman.

Presidents of two of the country's biggest power companies urged governors not to dismiss coal, calling it the country's most abundant energy resource.

"We cannot ignore coal, we cannot demonize coal," said Thomas Farrell, chairman of Richmond, Va.-based Dominion Resources Inc.

Michael Morris, chairman of Columbus, Ohio-based American Electric Power Co., said "the whole notion of delegitimizing coal is something we should all be frightened of."

Microsoft says it won't uproot Yahoo

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. said Friday it won't totally uproot Yahoo Inc. from its Sunnyvale, Calif. headquarters if it succeeds in its bid to buy the Web portal company.

"In bringing the companies together, we would be committed to maintaining Yahoo's significant presence in Silicon Valley," wrote Kevin Johnson, president of Microsoft's platforms and services division, in an e-mail to employees. Johnson noted that Microsoft employs 1,800 people in nearby Mountain View.

The e-mail was written in question-and-answer format to address recent issues raised by employees. But Johnson did not directly answer questions about staffing and layoffs.

"While some overlap is expected in any combination of this size, we should remember that Microsoft is a growth company that has hired over 20,000 people since 2005, and we would look to place talented employees throughout the company as a whole," he wrote.

Johnson's comments seem aimed at responding to Yahoo's decision to adopt new severance plans earlier in the week. All the company's full-time workers who lose their jobs without "cause" or quit "for good reason" after a Microsoft takeover would continue to receive salary and health insurance for four to 24 months, plus other benefits.

The company did not give details about its definition of "good reason," but observers noted that it could include relocation to Microsoft's Redmond headquarters.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Jordan Rohan wrote in a note to investors that that Yahoo's new plans could cost Microsoft as much as $500 million, on top of the $40 billion or so its offer to buy the Web portal business is now worth.

In the e-mail, Johnson also told Microsoft's employees that they must "not speculate with Yahoo employees about the proposal or about what a deal would mean for the combined company."

"No Microsoft employee should reach out to Yahoo employees for the purpose of integration planning unless specifically instructed to do so," he wrote.

The software maker's shares dropped 42 cents to close at $27.68 Friday, while Yahoo's stock ended the session unchanged at $28.42.

Boeing tries to hold onto tanker deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force is likely days away from handing out one of the biggest Pentagon contracts in years—a deal valued at up to $40 billion to replace 179 planes in its fleet of aerial refueling tankers.

For the three companies bidding, there is more at stake than just the monetary award: jobs and reputation.

Boeing Co. has supplied the Air Force with refueling tankers for nearly 50 years and doesn't want to let go of that. The incumbent is considered the favorite to win—an assumption already reflected in its stock price.

But European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co. and its U.S. partner, Northrop Grumman Corp., want to be in on the game. For France-based EADS, the parent of rival Airbus, the contract is an entree into the massive American military market just as overseas spending cools. And for Northrop Grumman, it would tap into a major new military revenue stream at a time when Pentagon spending may be leveling off.

Analysts say the tanker award could be announced any time after Pentagon officials meet Monday to sign off on the Air Force's tanker purchase plan.

The contract—worth $30 billion to $40 billion over 10 to 15 years—is the first of three deals to replace the Air Force's entire fleet of nearly 600 tankers, which allow aircraft to refuel without landing.

For Wall Street, the award's potential really takes off with the follow-on contracts likely going to the incumbent. As much as $100 billion over the next 30 years is at stake, says Loren Thompson, a defense industry analyst with Lexington Institute, a policy think tank.

AP

In this image provided by the Boeing Aircraft Company the second KC-767 aerial refueling tanker slated for the Japan Air Self-Defense Force takes off on its first flight Nov. 18, 2007 from Wichita, Kansas.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Surge in gas prices could be short-lived

NEW YORK (AP)—Gas prices jumped Friday to their highest level since June, a possible preview of what many analysts believe will be a record spike in pump prices this spring. But the current price surge could be short-lived. While gasoline has risen sharply in recent days in response to oil's dramatic climb to a new record above $101 a barrel, gas supplies have quietly grown to their highest level in 14 years. "We've got a major supply cushion," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill. At the pump, gas prices rose 2.9 cents overnight to a national average of $3.115 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That was the highest since June 8. At the same time, March gasoline futures rose 1.17 cents to settle at $2.5337 a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Meanwhile, light, sweet crude for April delivery rose 58 cents to settle at $98.81 a barrel on concerns about potential supply disruptions and cold weather. Many analysts believe gas prices will rise this spring to new records near $3.75 or $4 a gallon. But not everyone agrees.

Legal move pushes GM retiree plan ahead

DETROIT (AP)—The United Auto Workers and General Motors Corp. have taken a big legal step toward shifting billions in retiree health care costs from the automaker to an independent trust fund. The union and attorneys representing several retirees sued GM on Thursday in U.S. District Court in Detroit in an effort to get court approval of the change. It would cover about 500,000 GM retirees and spouses, plus current UAW workers when they retire. The lawsuit is not a hostile action. GM will not oppose its major points and joined the UAW and retirees in filing a settlement agreement that would govern how the trust would be run. If the court approves, the trust will take on $46.7 billion in health care costs starting as early as Jan. 1, 2010. According to court records, GM will pay $33 billion to $36.5 billion into the trust, called a voluntary employees beneficiary association, or VEBA.

Company gets rich on college fight songs

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—Alabama football fans can buy pens, ties, video games, phones and socks that play the Crimson Tide's fight song, and a New York company is humming the tune all the way to the bank. In an unusual mix of athletics and consumer electronics, college sports fans are helping boost the bottom line for a Manhattan-based music publisher that's selling rights to fight songs for use in an array of new products. Analysts say the boom is part of a major trend in the music industry, where publishing companies are reaping the benefits of the digital music that's become the soundtrack to life thanks to microprocessors and streaming sound. "Recorded music is becoming a ubiquitous feature. I think we have not even begun to witness the top of this yet," said Aram Sinnreich of Radar Research, a Los Angeles-based consulting firm. Carlin America Inc. purchased the rights to the fight songs of Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana State and about 95 other universities when it acquired another publishing company in 1999.

Stocks rally on word of Ambac bailout

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street staged a dramatic turnaround Friday, shooting higher in the last half-hour of trading after word that a bailout plan for troubled bond insurer Ambac Financial could be announced next week. The major indexes ended a week of choppy trading mixed.

CNBC reported shortly before the closing bell that a plan to help shore up the finances of Ambac Financial Group Inc. could be announced Monday or Tuesday. Ambac shares jumped on the report and finished up $1.48, or 16 percent, at $10.71.

The market's turnaround came after nearly two full days of selling. The Dow Jones industrial average had been down nearly 130 points, but by the close, showed a 225-point reversal from its lows of the session.

"There's probably some validity to the rumors," said Jim Herrick, manager of equity trading at Baird & Co., referring to traders' speculation about Ambac. "With the overall financial crunch we've experienced, this brings new confidence in the sector."

The Dow rose 96.72, or 0.79 percent, to 12,381.02.

Broader stock indicators also moved higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.58, or 0.79 percent, to 1,353.11, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 3.57, or 0.16 percent, to 2,303.35.

For the week, the Dow edged up 0.27 percent, while the S&P 500 rose 0.23 percent and the Nasdaq lost 0.79 percent.

Nation

Obama raps McCain on lobbyists

AMERICA VOTES

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Sen. Barack Obama said Saturday that the Republican presidential nominee in waiting, Sen. John McCain, has lobbyists as top aides and "many of them have been running their business on the campaign bus while they've been helping him."

The Democratic presidential hopeful also said McCain's health care plans reflect "the agenda of the drug and insurance lobbyists, who back his campaign and use money and influence to block real health care reform."

Jill Hazelbaker, a spokeswoman for McCain, said the Arizona senator "has been an agent for change for his entire career—he is the greatest change agent in our party—and we plan to highlight that record in this election."

Obama has criticized McCain increasingly in recent weeks, while running off 11 straight primary and caucus victories over his Democratic rival, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Polls taken during the primary season show that independent voters are drawn in large numbers to both Obama and McCain, suggesting the two men would compete intensively for their support if they wind up opposing each other in the general election this fall.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks during a rally Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, in Akron, Ohio.

Obama made his remarks as he campaigned for votes in the March 4 Democratic primary in Ohio, with 141 national convention delegates at stake.

He made health care a focus of his campaign day, visiting a hospital diabetes unit. At one point in a discussion with doctors and nurses, the talk turned to prevention of the illness in youngsters.

"If we just cut out soda pop," it would make a difference, he said.

Asked at a later news conference about the issue, he said he hopes schools will "re-examine how easily they make soda available."

Citing an increase in childhood obesity and diabetes, he said if children "are consuming vast amounts of soft drinks chock full of corn syrup, then we should, you know, consider whether we want to maybe have at least some zones like schools where they have to drink water once in a while."

Obama singled McCain out for criticism twice during the day, at one point saying that the Republican's health care proposals are worse than anything proposed in the race between himself and Clinton.

He characterized them as "more of the same Bush health care policies that haven't worked in the past and won't work today."

"It's a tax break that doesn't guarantee coverage and doesn't make sure that health care is affordable for the working

Shooting aftermath: NIU moves forward

DEKALB, Ill. (AP)—The lecture hall where the shooting occurred is closed for the rest of the semester. Extra police and security guards will be on hand. Volunteer counselors will man each classroom, academic department and dormitory.

When classes resume Monday, Northern Illinois University will be transformed by the rampage in which five students and gunman Steve Kazmierczak were killed.

The slain have been laid to rest, but for the 25,000 students, the memory of what happened is still fresh, and the changes are everywhere.

"The campus to which the students and our faculty and our staff will be returning is one that may experience some continuing sense of nervousness and fear," NIU spokeswoman Melanie Magara said. "We recognize that."

Plans for a memorial for the victims are still in their infancy. Family and friends have buried Daniel Parmenter, Catalina Garcia, Gayle Dubowski, all 20; Ryanne Mace, 19; and Julianna Gehant, 32. Most of the 16 others who were wounded have gone home, though two were still hospitalized a week after the attack.

No decision has been made on the future of Cole Hall, where the killings took place. But student Kevin Wittier is glad it's shuttered for the time being.

ACROSS THE NATION

10 Ga. refinery blast victims remembered

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A hardhat was hung in the centers of 10 wreaths of white carnations at a memorial service Saturday, one for each of the Imperial Sugar workers killed in the explosion at the company's nearby refinery. More than 700 employees of the refinery in Port Wentworth, as well as relatives and friends of the victims of the Feb. 7 blast, gathered at the Savannah Civic Center. "You can ask anybody in Savannah or in the community around Port Wentworth; it definitely affects everybody," Richard Ussery, who has worked in the refinery for 17 years, said as he hugged and greeted friends leaving the memorial. For Antonio Washington, who drives a forklift in the refinery warehouse, it was a chance to say goodbye to two friends he last saw the night of the explosion. He broke a toe when the blast hurled him off his forklift. "I'd like to remember everybody like they were," said Washington, who couldn't bring himself to attend either man's funeral. "I think about them every day."

Florida zoo takes in expunged exotics

MIAMI (AP)—With alternately tearful goodbyes and barely contained impatience, more than 100 South Floridians surrendered their exotic animals Saturday at a zoo event designed to give owners an alternative to simply turning them loose. The canopied plastic tables at the Miami MetroZoo became exhibits of their own as passers-by hoisted children and snapped pictures of the snakes, scorpions and turtles being handed over in laundry baskets, food storage containers and pillow cases. Of the more than 150 pets handed over on "Exotic Pet Amnesty Day" by people who could no longer care for the beasts, all but six found new homes. Among the more bizarre submissions were a rhino iguana, a spotted African serval cat and a coatmundi—a racoon-looking mammal found in South America.

Girl, 12, saves siblings from house fire

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (AP)—As flames consumed her home and prevented her parents from rescuing her and two younger siblings, a quick-thinking 12-year-old girl saved the other children Saturday by kicking out a second-story window and helping them down, firefighters said. Derrionna Adams then leaped 15 feet to safety, East St. Louis Fire Chief William Fennoy said. "She kicked the window out and stepped up onto the roof of the first floor and was able to pull her two siblings out," Fennoy said. "This was a blessed day." Velma Dorris, the children's mother, and her husband, Bernard, were sleeping downstairs with three children when the fire started, authorities said. Smoke and flames kept them from reaching the children upstairs.

Man accused of stealing 7-year-old's ID

CARPENTERSVILLE, Ill. (AP)—Police in a Chicago suburb say the Internal Revenue Service has told a 7-year-old boy he owes back taxes on $60,000 because someone else has been using the youngster's identity to collect wages and unemployment benefits. Officers in suburban Carpentersville said Friday the second-grader's identity has been in use by someone else since 2001. Detectives have filed a felony identity theft charge against 29-year-old Cirilo Centeno of Streamwood, Ill. They accuse Centeno of using the boy's personal information to collect more than $60,000 in pay and services while working three jobs. They say he also used the boy's ID to buy a truck, pay bills and even collect unemployment benefits.

Civil rights icon Johnnie Carr, 97, dies

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Johnnie Carr, who joined childhood friend Rosa Parks in the historic Montgomery bus boycott and kept a busy schedule of civil rights activism up to her final days, has died. She was 97.

Carr died Friday night, said Baptist Health hospital spokeswoman Melody Ragland. She had been hospitalized after a stroke Feb. 11.

Carr succeeded the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association in 1967, a post she held at her death. It was the newly formed association that led the boycott of city buses in the Alabama capital in 1955 after Parks, a black seamstress, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to whites on a crowded bus.

A year later the U.S. Supreme Court struck down racial segregation on public transportation.

"Johnnie Carr is one of the three major icons of the Civil Rights Movement: Dr. King, Rosa Parks and Johnnie Carr," said Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. "I think ultimately, when the final history books are written, she'll be one of the few people remembered for that terrific movement."

As the Improvement Association's president, Carr helped lead several initiatives to improve race relations and conditions for blacks. She was involved in a lawsuit to desegregate Montgomery schools, with her then-13-year-old son, Arlam, the named plaintiff.

"She hadn't been sick up until she had the stroke," Arlam Carr said Saturday. "It was such a massive stroke that she never was able to recover from it. She was still very active—going around and speaking—but it was just one of those things."

AP

Longtime civil right activist Johnnie Carr listens to comments about Rosa Parks and the 50th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott during a news conference in this Dec. 1, 2005 file photo, in Montgomery, Ala.

She played a prominent role in 2005 on the 50th anniversary of Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat, speaking to thousands of schoolchildren who marched to the Capitol.

"Look back, but march forward," Carr urged the huge crowd of young people.

She also traveled to memorial services in Washington, where her eulogy of Parks was "really the most dynamic" moment, recalled Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

NYPD trio set for trial in groom's death

NEW YORK (AP)—On the night before his wedding, Sean Bell went to a strip club called Kalua Cabaret for a bachelor party. As he and two friends left early in the morning, they were confronted by undercover officers investigating reports of drugs and prostitution.

The rest of the story varies depending on who's telling it, but every version ends the same way: Bell dying and his friends wounded in a barrage of 50 police bullets outside the club.

Bell, 23, was killed Nov. 25, 2006, hours before he was to marry Nicole Paultre, the mother of his two children.

The three police officers indicted in the shooting go on trial Monday in a case that has sparked protests and debate over excessive force and police conduct in New York.

Detective Michael Oliver fired 31 shots, including the one that killed Bell. Detective Gescard Isnora squeezed off 11 rounds, and Detective Marc Cooper fired four times. Oliver and Isnora have pleaded not guilty to manslaughter; Cooper has pleaded not guilty to reckless endangerment.

Asia

Pakistan's ousted rulers to cooperate

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's outgoing ruling party promised Saturday to support the victors in combating Islamic extremism, while the winners discussed ways to curb President Pervez Musharraf's powers—especially his right to dismiss parliament.

Mushahid Hussain, secretary-general of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q, told reporters that his pro-Musharraf party was prepared to play a "positive, constructive role" after suffering a crushing defeat in last Monday's elections.

The two biggest opposition parties together captured at least 154 of the 268 contested seats in the National Assembly, compared to only 40 for the ruling party. The Election Commission has yet to declare winners in six seats.

With the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League-N planning to form a coalition government, Hussain said his party would support the future administration in pursuing "a national agenda above party lines," including "combating extremism and terrorism."

He also said the losers would help the new government develop programs to improve education, health, the rights of women and minorities as well as developing a broad-based foreign policy.

"Relations with Western countries should have the support and sanction of the people of Pakistan," Hussain said.

For their part, leaders of Bhutto's party were holding closed-door strategy sessions over the weekend, discussing their legislative program and preparing for coalition talks with the Pakistan Muslim League-N, headed by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Japan launches Internet satellite

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's space agency launched an experimental communications satellite Saturday designed to enable super high-speed data transmission at home and in Southeast Asia.

The domestically developed H-2A rocket carrying the satellite, "Kizuna," was launched Saturday evening from the southern island of Tanegashima, according to a live Internet broadcast by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, known as JAXA.

The satellite, equipped with two large multi-beam antennas, separated from the rocket and successfully entered its intended orbit 175 miles from Earth, JAXA said in a statement.

The agency said it hoped to enable data transmission of up to 1.2 gigabytes per second at a low cost across Japan and in 19 different places in Southeast Asia. JAXA developed Kizuna with another government agency, the National Institute of Information and Communication Technology, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

The cost of the satellite's development, launch and operation is estimated at $480 million, JAXA spokeswoman Asaka Hagiwara said.

Japan has yet to join the lucrative international satellite market, and Kizuna, which should be in operation for five years, is not intended for commercial use. Its large H-2A rocket is one of the most advanced and reliable in the world—Saturday's was its eighth straight successful launch.

AP

A H-2A lifts off from its launch pad on the island of Tanagashima on Saturday February 23, 2008. Japan's space agency said Saturday it launched a communications satellite designed to enable super high-speed data transmission.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP president warned of irregularity in broadband deal on eve of contract signing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president said Saturday she was warned about possible irregularities in a multimillion dollar broadband deal with a Chinese company, which she canceled months later following corruption accusations that implicated her husband. It was the first time President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has revealed she was aware as early as April 2007 of possible corruption linked to the US$330 million contract with China's ZTE Corp. Arroyo ordered officials to drop the deal in September 2007 after a businessman testified in the Senate that her husband and the then-elections chief had threatened him to make him abandon his bid for the national broadband project. Both men have denied any wrongdoing. "Someone complained to me about it the night before the signing of the supply contract," Arroyo said in an interview with DZRH radio. "How can you cancel the night before when you are negotiating with a foreign country?" She did not say who told her about the alleged irregularities or specify what they were.

32 people die in floods, landslides in eastern and southern Philippines; 10 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Floods and landslides killed at least 32 people, while 10 remained missing and hundreds of thousands were left homeless in the eastern and southern Philippines, the government's disaster agency said Saturday. Floods fed by heavy rains inundated entire towns and displaced more than 307,000 people in eight provinces, destroying roads and bridges, and triggering landslides, the National Disaster Coordinating Council reported. Infrastructure and agricultural damage totaled more than 1 billion pesos (US$24.4 million; €16.43 million), mostly on Leyte and Samar islands, about 570 kilometers (350 miles) southeast of the capital, Manila, the agency said. The unusually wet weather Feb. 12-17 was caused by a low pressure area that affected the central Visayas islands and the main southern island of Mindanao, the weather bureau said.

Bomb wounds 14 near Sri Lankan capital

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Two days of scattered fighting between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels left at least 39 insurgents and a soldier dead, the military said Saturday. A bomb explosion on a bus wounded at least 14 people near the Sri Lankan capital Saturday, but a bigger disaster was averted because a passenger spotted the device and everyone fled the vehicle before the blast, officials said. The latest fighting erupted in northeastern Welioya region Saturday, where soldiers killed at least eight guerrillas, the military said in a statement. A day earlier, clashes broke out in at least six locations in northern Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya districts and Welioya, leaving 31 rebels and one soldier dead, the statement said.

World

Romania base suspected CIA prisoner site

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU AIR BASE, Romania (AP)—It always happened at 1 a.m. In a secluded corner of this heavily guarded airfield, two snipers would creep across a rooftop and take their positions. Moments later, just below, a black minibus would arrive and wait.

Three times in 2004, and twice more in 2005, a jet landed and the black bus drove out to meet it. Large, mysterious parcels were exchanged that, according to a Romanian official who says he witnessed it, looked like bundled-up terror suspects.

The official, a high-ranking veteran with inside knowledge of operations at the base, said the planes then left for North Africa with their cargo and two CIA handlers aboard.

His descriptions, told on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press, add to suspicions surrounding Romania's involvement in "extraordinary rendition"—the beyond-the-law transfer of U.S. terror suspects from country to country by the CIA. Human rights advocates say renditions were the agency's way to outsource torture of prisoners to countries where it is permitted practice.

Romania's precise role is a little-reported part of the system that is being slowly revealed, often to the chagrin of U.S. allies. In an embarrassing reversal after years of denial, Britain admitted Thursday that its military outpost on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia had twice been used as a refueling stop for the secret transport of terrorism suspects.

'Raulistas' expected to back Raul Castro

HAVANA (AP)—They are called "Raulistas"—top military men who manage much of Cuba's economy and populate the upper reaches of power. On Sunday, these men will likely ensure that Raul Castro not only succeeds his brother Fidel as president, but remains in firm control.

Having served in Raul Castro's Defense Ministry for decades, Cuba's active and retired military leaders today oversee key economic endeavors, from farming to the tourism, that bring in hard currency.

Five active generals sit on the Communist Party's powerful 21-member Politburo, including two who run the important interior and sugar ministries.

While loyal first to Fidel Castro, many of these men have particularly close friendships with the younger brother. And they are likely to help him consolidate power if he is named president on Sunday following the ailing 81-year-old Fidel's resignation last week.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces are one of the island's strongest and most respected institutions, and with the top generals backing him, Raul is unlikely to face problems from the military at large—a sector that in many countries can be the most dangerous for a new government.

Serbia: US 'culprit' in Kosovo violence

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Kosovo (AP)—Serbia's hardline leaders on Saturday called the U.S. "the main culprit" in the violence that has broken out since Kosovo declared independence.

Several thousand Serbs chanting "Kosovo is Serbia!" and "Russia, Vladimir Putin!" protested peacefully in the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, the sixth day of demonstrations against Kosovo's break with Serbia. Russia backs Serbia's fierce resistance to Kosovo's secession.

On Thursday night, protesters in the Serbian capital Belgrade set fire to the U.S. embassy, angered by Washington's recognition of Kosovo. The U.S. and the European Union responded by demanding Serbia protect foreign embassies.

"The United States is the main culprit ... for all those violent acts," Serbia's Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic said in Belgrade.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran: No justification for UN sanctions

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on the U.S. and its allies Saturday to "apologize" for accusing Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, a day after the U.N. nuclear watchdog released its latest report on Iran. Ahmadinejad said the International Atomic Energy Agency report vindicated Iran and warned that Tehran would take unspecified "decisive reciprocal measures" against any country that imposed additional sanctions against Iran. The IAEA report said many past questions about Iran's nuclear program had been resolved but it highlighted Tehran's continued refusal to halt uranium enrichment. Ahmadinejad said in a televised address to the nation that the best way for the U.S. and its allies to "compensate for their mistakes" is to "apologize and pay compensation." "If they continue" pursuing sanctions, he said, "we have definitely drawn up reciprocal measures." He did not elaborate.

Turkey bombs Kurdish rebels in Iraq

CUKURCA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish warplanes, helicopters and artillery bombed suspected hideouts of Kurdish rebels in remote, mountainous terrain of northern Iraq Saturday. The Turkish military said at least 35 Kurdish rebels and two Turkish soldiers died in fighting Saturday. A total of seven soldiers and at least 79 rebels have been killed in Iraq since Turkey launched a ground incursion late Thursday, according to the military.

The rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, claimed it had killed 15 Turkish troops. The incursion is the first confirmed Turkish military ground operation in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. Iraq's government criticized the offensive on Saturday, saying military force will not solve the Kurdish problem. "We know the threats that Turkey is facing but military operations will not solve the PKK problem. Turkey has resorted to military options, but this never resulted in a good thing," Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said.

Prison death sparks Fatah-Hamas tension

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The family of a Hamas preacher who died in Palestinian custody alleged Saturday that the prisoner was tortured by interrogators from the rival Fatah faction. Authorities confirmed the death on Friday of Majed Barghouti, 44, at an intelligence lockup in the West Bank town of Ramallah, a week after his arrest. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Fatah forces control the prison, ordered an investigation. The death raises new concerns that Fatah forces are violating human rights in their crackdown on the Islamic militant group Hamas. Hamas detainees have repeatedly complained of mistreatment by Abbas' forces and Gaza's Hamas leadership called Barghouti's death a crime. Hamas and Fatah are locked in a power struggle for control of the Palestinian territories.

Health & Fitness

Trainer on 'Loser' gains insight

LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I tend to be a lot less critical of myself and never take my health for granted," Kim Lyons says of what "The Biggest Loser" taught her.

By JANET CROMLEY
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Kim Lyons is a human liposuction machine. As a trainer on NBC's hit reality series, "The Biggest Loser," Lyons routinely helped morbidly obese contestants rid themselves of hundreds of pounds in a matter of months, emerging from her training program thin and lithe as cougars.

Lyons has been featured in scores of national newspapers and magazines, including Shape, Us and Health, and has an endorsement deal with Jennie-O Turkey. She has just released her first weight-loss book, "Kim Lyons' Your Body, Your Life."

Question: Did your strategy for working with morbidly obese people change after you started "The Biggest Loser"?

Answer: On "The Biggest Loser," I am as much a life coach as I am a trainer to my team. This has given me a closer look into the mental aspects that often lead to obesity and strengthened my belief that emotional support goes hand in hand with weight loss.

When it comes to the training and the nutrition, my "no excuses" strategy remains strong and consistent. Of course, I'm always updating and expanding my training library and creating healthy recipes to keep things exciting, but in the end, it comes down to good old-fashioned hard work and proper nutrition.

Q: Can you tell us a little about your own personal workout strategy?

A: Many people think I am "genetically" blessed and don't have to work out. Trust me, I have to work very hard. Before I became a personal trainer, I was 25 pounds heavier with 26 percent body fat. I worked with a trainer who changed my body and my life and inspired me to do the same for others. Through the years, my personal workouts and goals have changed a million times. I like to mix it up with different activities that are as much fun as they are work. My experience working with obese people has put many things in perspective for me. I tend to be a lot less critical of myself and never take my health for granted.

Q: And can you tell us about your current diet? How many meals/calories a day?

A: My diet consists of three small meals and two snacks a day. I focus on having a balance of protein, carbs and fat every time I eat. For example, for breakfast I'll have a few egg whites with some turkey bacon in a whole-grain tortilla. It's a perfect on-the-go balanced breakfast that I can wrap up as I run out the door. For a snack, I'll grab an apple and a few almonds, or some low-fat string cheese.

Over the years, I have learned to find healthy alternatives for some of my favorite foods. For example, I always use ... ground turkey instead of beef in my burgers, tacos or spaghetti sauce. It's a simple way to cut down on fat and calories without feeling like I'm on a diet.

Q: You recently married bodybuilder Gunter Schlierkamp. Are there things that you've added or deleted from your workout as a result of observing what he does? Are there things about diet and fitness that he's learned from you?

A: It is great to be married to someone that is also so into living a healthy lifestyle. Instead of watching TV on weekends, we'll go for a bike ride or out for a hike. We keep each other motivated when the other is having a tough time getting to the gym. We work out together a lot and we always learn from one another and share ideas. Gunter will pick on me when I'm lifting "light" weights, and I'll critique his form, all in fun.

Q: What one thing can get you to play hooky and not work out?

A: My world stops for a good sunset. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in the craziness of my day, and then I'll look out over the ocean and see the beautiful orange sky. It always reminds me to just stop and take a deep breath at the end of a long day.

Pump up the muscles, not the volume

By VICKY HALLETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. Would you please speak to the astonishing noise levels in cycling studios? This blare from "music" can also be found in any group classes (at least at my gym: Sport & Health in Virginia). I would like to take part but not for the price of damaging my hearing.

A. I predict you're about to have a new favorite piece of equipment at the gym. It isn't some high-tech elliptical or a cable-based weight machine. It's a decibel meter — and many gyms, including yours, have one. The next time you can't ride without clamping your hands over your ears and cursing the entire techno genre, ask the manager for a dB reading.

The noise in the gym should never exceed 80 decibels — the level set by the EPA as safe, says Teri Bothwell, group exercise director for the Sport & Health chain. That's no louder than a bustling city street.

If the meter confirms your suspicions of rock concert-esque sound levels (about 110 dBs), your instructor will want to take it down a notch — or risk losing certification from such groups as the American Council on Exercise. But if the volume's right at 80, you'll have to face the music. For every club member who complains about the racket, as you do, there's another begging for extra bass. "It's always a balance of loud enough to motivate but not being too loud," Bothwell says. "Having quiet, soft music works in yoga, but not in cardio."

You might try picking a bike as far away from the speakers as possible. Earplugs could help, too — at least they're an easier fix than the hands-over-ears method.

Q. When I run (usually on a treadmill), I'm exhausted afterwards. But when I run outdoors, I feel stronger after I'm done. I think this is because I slow down noticeably when I run outdoors. But is it actually better that way? If I'm exhausted after a workout, does that mean I'm overdoing it?

A. The funny thing about running on a treadmill is that it should be easier than taking it to the streets — that rotating rubber belt propels you forward, requiring less energy. But, in reality, when man meets machine, the results can be disastrous, says Mike Broderick, co-owner of Running Strong, a D.C.-based coaching service.

"On a treadmill ... people think they ought to run a certain pace. So they'll crank it up and hold on for dear life," he says. But when you're outside, without numbers flashing in your face, it's easier to follow the rhythms of your body: "You don't need to hit anything. You just slow down." That's likely your story. When you're away from the treadmill, you're more attuned to your perceived exertion and adjust accordingly.

The easiest way to check if you're working enough is by calculating your heart rate. For most training runs, Broderick recommends staying between 65 and 75 percent of your max (which is usually about 220 minus your age). Once or twice a week, he gives you permission to go all out and hit 80 to 85 percent, but those runs should be shorter, and they require more recovery time.

He suspects you're subconsciously doing the former outside and the latter on the treadmill, which explains why you're so spent after those indoor runs. "You should feel tired, but invigorated," Broderick says.

"If you feel tired and overwhelmed, you've probably done too much."

Q. I'm a 54-year-old male in reasonable shape. I used to run until I had my anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) repaired. Now I mostly bike, hike and do yoga. I'd like to begin strength training to help slow down muscle loss as I age. I've looked at a number of magazines but the articles all seem to be gauged to 20-somethings. Do you have any suggestions? I have access to a gym with Cybex, Nautilus and free weights.

A. My middle-aged buddy Howard may still harbor fantasies that he'll achieve the body of a Men's Health cover model. But it sounds like your aspirations are smarter.

That's because this dastardly age-related condition called sarcopenia sneaks up on folks around the time they hit 40, causing them to lose 1 percent of their muscle mass each year. "But that's the good news," says Sheldon Zinberg, the physician-founder of the California-based gym chain Nifty After Fifty. "Because at around 60, it accelerates to 1.5 percent each year. You can really deteriorate quickly."

An injury that sidelines you for a while, such as, say, an ACL tear, can make matters worse. So Zinberg would like to get you lifting quickly, just as he has with others in your age bracket. Here's his list of must-do exercises on Cybex or Nautilus machines: leg press, leg curl, leg extension, shoulder press, seated row and seated bench press.

He also recommends working with dumbbells to tone up your triceps and biceps. "Free weights are important because those mimic real-life movements," Zinberg says. And, of course, there's core training. You probably get some of that through yoga, but to improve your balance, hop to it. Or at least practice standing on one leg.

Before getting laid up with a case of boomeritis, remember that you need to take it slowly. Start with a weight that you're comfortable lifting through two sets of eight repetitions. When you can increase to three sets of 12 reps, you're ready for the next level. Add a pound or two, and cut back again to two sets of eight.

And maybe you'll make the cover of AARP. (Hey, just kidding!)

Life & Style

'Juno' wins indie Spirit top honor

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The pregnancy comedy "Juno" was chosen as the year's best independent film and won two other honors Saturday at the Spirit Awards, including best actress for Ellen Page.

The ceremony was a warmup for Hollywood's big show, Sunday's Academy Awards, where "Juno" and Page are in the running for the same categories. Page gushed thanks for "Juno" director Jason Reitman and writer Diablo Cody.

"This is so, so special, but this is pretty much all Diablo Cody's fault," said Page, who played a whipsmart pregnant teen giving the baby up for adoption in "Juno." "She wrote one of the best screenplays I have ever read and created a teenage female lead I feel like we've never seen before."

Cody won the award for best first screenplay and is up for original screenplay at the Oscars.

"This is the coolest award in the coolest category. There is nothing like writing a first screenplay," Cody said.

Reitman missed out on the directing award, which went to Julian Schnabel for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," based on the memoir of French Elle editor Jean-Dominique Bauby, who suffered a paralyzing stroke. The film also won the cinematography prize for Janusz Kaminski.

Both Reitman and Schnabel are nominated for best director at the Oscars. Most key Spirit Award recipients had Oscar nominations.

"Juno" producer Russell Smith said he felt Cody was the Oscar frontrunner for original screenplay. As for the film's other nominees: "The rest of us are just happy to be in the big house," Smith said.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, who won best actor for the sibling drama "The Savages," is nominated for supporting actor at the Oscars for "Charlie Wilson's War."

Co-star Laura Linney missed out on a Spirit Awards nomination but is up for best actress at the Oscars for "The Savages." The film's writer-director Tamara Jenkins won the screenplay award for "The Savages," which also earned her an Oscar slot.

And keeping the spirit of pregnancy in the air, Angelina Jolie, nominated for best actress for "A Mighty Heart," a role for which she was denied an Oscar nod, showed up looking clearly pregnant with her partner Brad Pitt. Jolie walked right down the carpet and did not answer questions from reporters.

AP

Ellen Page arrives at the 2008 Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, Calif., on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008.

Moments of the ceremony were a tribute to Heath Ledger, who died of a prescription drug overdose Jan. 22 at his Manhattan apartment.

One of six actors playing incarnations of Bob Dylan in director Todd Haynes' "I'm Not There," Ledger was remembered as "probably one of the most beautiful independent spirits of all" by Cate Blanchett, winner of the supporting-actress prize for portraying Dylan in his transition from folk icon to electric rocker, a role that also earned her an Oscar nomination.

"We all loved him so dearly," Haynes said of Ledger, recalling that the actor had started making music videos and intended to go into directing himself. "I have no doubt he would have made an astounding director."

Ledger was a Spirit Award best-actor nominee two years ago for "Brokeback Mountain," the best picture winner. Also nominated for best picture at the Spirit Awards, "I'm Not There" received the first-ever Robert Altman Award honoring Haynes, Ledger, Blanchett and co-stars including Christian Bale and Richard Gere, who were among the performers taking on personifications of Dylan.

The Altman award was created after the filmmaker's death in 2006, the prize going to a filmmaker, casting director and acting ensemble, a nod to Altman's gift for big casts and overlapping story lines. Altman was nominated a year ago as best director for his final film, "A Prairie Home Companion."

Chiwetel Ejiofor won supporting actor as a radio station manager signing up an ex-con who becomes an outspoken on-air activist amid the 1960s civil-rights movement in "Talk to Me."

While most Spirit Award winners are unknown to general audiences, "Juno" followed last year's top winner, "Little Miss Sunshine," as an independent film that has soared into the mainstream. "Juno" is closing in on $130 million at the domestic box office, the biggest commercial hit among the best-picture contenders at the Oscars.

Spirit Awards host Rainn Wilson, who has a small role in "Juno," wisecracked that the film managed to avoid the fate of obscurity "like every single other movie we're honoring today."

The Irish music romance "Once," whose stars Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova have a best-song Oscar nomination, was named best foreign film.

"This is amazing to start making little films for a hundred grand with your mates in Dublin and not have any permits," said "Once" writer-director John Carney. "I guess that's independent filmmaking."

Other Spirit Award winners were:

- Documentary: "Crazy Love."
- First feature: "The Lookout," directed by Scott Frank.
- John Cassavetes Award, given to a film made for less than $500,000: "August Evening."

Presented by the cinema group Film Independent, the Spirit Awards honor movies that cost less than $20 million to make, with a significant part of their budget originating from outside the Hollywood studio system. Other criteria for nominations include films' originality and provocative subject matter.

Hollywood abuzz with Oscar preparations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jewels and parties. Stars and stand-ins. Rehearsals and news conferences. So much swag even Hollywood canines could rack up free goodies. The city is abuzz with all things Oscar as celebrities flock from all over the world for Sunday's Academy Awards...

SHOE FLAP: Fancy-footwear designer Stuart Weitzman chose Diablo Cody to wear his specially designed $1 million Retro Rose shoes on the red carpet, but the "Juno" screenwriter might leave the diamond-encrusted high heels off her feet Sunday. Cody's not completely thrilled, "now that I think about it."

"They're using me to publicize their stupid shoes and NOBODY ASKED ME," Cody wrote on her MySpace blog Friday. "I would never consent to a lame publicity stunt at a time when I already want to hide."

Weitzman wasn't at his Four Seasons Hotel shoe suite in Beverly Hills on Saturday afternoon while Taryn Cox, assistant to Scarlett Johansson (size 9), and "Today" show entertainment correspondent Jill Rappaport (size 10) browsed Weitzman's wares.

"I would expect she probably won't wear them. She made that very clear," Weitzman later told the AP about the shoe tussle during a telephone interview Saturday night. "If she decides not to wear the shoes, that's Diablo's decision, and I wouldn't try to convince her otherwise. It's Diablo's day, and she can do whatever she wants."

Weitzman says he made the cost of the metallic beige shoes—more than $2.5 million, including parts that were not used in the final pair—clear to Cody when he met with her. He blames Cody's behind-the-scenes team for not communicating the value of the shoes to the Oscar-nominated screenwriter.

"I'm just embarrassed that she wrote what she wrote," he said.

Even so, the designer says he wouldn't change his decision to give the ultra-expensive slippers to Cody.

■■■

LADIES' NIGHT: Half a dozen A-list actresses stopped by the Kodak Theatre on Saturday to rehearse their lines for the next day's Oscar ceremony.

Cameron Diaz, in a gray sweater, skinny black jeans and towering high heels, opened a prop winner's envelope and said, "The Oscar goes to - your mama. No, I'm just kidding."

She stepped off stage and bumped into Jessica Alba. "Hi, honey," Diaz said as she gave Alba a kiss.

Iba, who is expecting a baby with her fiance Cash Warren, hid her growing bump under a loose black tunic. Ponytailed and makeup-free, the star recapped her presentation two weeks ago of the academy's annual Sci-Tech awards - always a tongue-twisting challenge.

"You nailed it, hon," stage manager Dency Nelson told her. As soon as she walked off stage, she traded her high heels for comfy flats.

Renee Zellweger arrived in a sweat shirt, jeans and sneakers, her oversized Gucci bag slung over her shoulder. Before taking the stage, she plunked her bag on the floor and fished out a pair of tall Christian Louboutin heels. She left her socks and sneakers in a pile near her purse as she stepped out to rehearse her lines.

After hitting her mark, she slipped off the stilettos and tossed them back into her bag, saying, "Well, that's enough of these things for today" to no one in particular.

Zellweger greeted Katherine Heigl, who was headed to the stage carrying two pairs of heels. But shoes weren't her problem - seeing the teleprompter was. Heigl narrowed her eyes as she tried to make out the words on the screen at the back of the theater.

"Oh, no," she said. "I'll try not to squint."

Also switching shoes was Jennifer Garner, who swapped her running shoes for high heels before stepping onstage. An assistant held her sneakers as Garner rehearsed.

Expectant mom Nicole Kidman didn't fuss with her shoes. Looking elegant enough to attend the awards a day early, she wore kitten heels with black tights, a black dress and a black overcoat that obscured her tummy. Her husband, Keith Urban, was also dressed all in black, from his ball cap down to his sneakers.

"Thank you for being here," a worker backstage said to the Oscar-winning actress.

"I'm so pleased," she said with a smile. "See you tomorrow."

■■■

STAR-STUDDED REHEARSAL: On Sunday, the Kodak Theater will be filled with stars. On Saturday, they appeared one at a time.

The eve of the Academy Awards is rehearsal day for celebrity presenters. One by one, in 15-minute increments, Oscar winners and other famous folks come to the Kodak to walk on stage and practice their lines.

An unassuming Alan Arkin started Saturday's star parade. Wearing jeans and a black fleece jacket, he skipped to the microphone at center stage. He read from the teleprompter, then said, "And the Oscar goes to me!"

Harrison Ford was next. Carrying a coffee cup, he walked to the edge of the stage to see where he'd be sitting Sunday. A placard with his name and photo sat next to one bearing Calista Flockhart's.

"Aw, she's sitting right next to me," Ford said with mock annoyance about sitting beside his longtime girlfriend.

"We can fix that," stage manager Dency Nelson joked back.

A few academy officials brought their kids and grandkids to the theater Saturday, and just before 11 a.m., it became clear why: Miley Cyrus was coming in to rehearse. Accompanied by her look-alike mom, the gregarious teen star greeted her young fans - and everyone else she came across—with a megawatt grin.

After running through her lines, Cyrus was coached by her mom and publicist. Both urged her to slow down and to smile.

Longtime show writer Bruce Vilanch arrived just as Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson was expected to take the stage.

"Is this `The Rock?'" a friend joked, pointing to Vilanch.

"I'm the roll," the rotund writer replied.

■■■

GIRL POWER: Don't expect to see Allison Janney, who plays the dog-obsessed stepmother in Best Picture nominee "Juno," at Sunday's ceremony. During a Friday night cocktail party hosted by Women in Film and Perrier-Jouet at a Bel Air mansion, the "West Wing" actress revealed she plans to watch the show at a viewing party and celebrate any "Juno" wins at a Fox Searchlight after-party.

"I'd rather not go unless I'm nominated," she told the AP. "I've been to enough award shows to know it's not a lot of fun. It's actually stressful. I'd rather be somewhere where I can just chill and not worry."

However, fellow Women in Film cocktail partygoers Nancy Oliver and Tamara Jenkins definitely intend to endure the festivities at the Kodak Theatre. That's because the two female screenwriters are nominated, respectively, for their "Lars and the Real Girl" and "The Savages" scripts.

"I think it'll be like a big theme park ride," said Oliver, who's never attended the Oscars.

This year's 43 female Oscar nominees were toasted at the exclusive event. Potential winners mingling at the soiree were easy to spot in the party's cluster of black cocktail dresses and suits: all nominees donned white corsages. Dana Delaney, Judith Light and Sharon Lawrence were among some of the famous faces in the crowd.

Mom worries that third baby will not measure up to others

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am married but have two children, "Venus" and "Adonis," from a previous relationship. These children are very good-looking, and I'm not just saying that because I'm their mom.

My husband, "Herman," is ready for us to start our own family soon. Not to sound shallow, but Herman was not a very cute kid. He wore thick glasses and braces as a child. Whenever I am asked by either Herman or his family if I think he was a cute baby, I lie.

I know I would love our babies as much as I do Venus and Adonis, but I'm afraid they will not be as cute, and that everyone will know my older children have a different father.

These worries are causing me to have doubts about having kids with Herman. Am I that shallow? Am I not in love enough with Herman because I'm scared our children will be ... ugly? This is killing me. Herman wants to start trying for a family this summer. Help!

WORRIED ABOUT GENETICS, CLARKSVILLE, TENN.

DEAR WORRIED: I have news for you. Herman was a typical kid -- and look how he turned out. He's attractive enough that you married him.

There are no guarantees regardless of the gene pool you're fishing in. I firmly believe that each generation is becoming more beautiful than the last -- or at least that's how it appears to me as I look around.

But please understand that nobody else cares who fathered Venus and Adonis, and it's time to give up your obsession about it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have read letters about girls who are overweight and that people should be careful about what they say to them. May I add something for those who are the opposite?

My daughter, "Claire," is 18 and since birth has always been small. Her doctor told me she will always be petite. Claire is 5 feet 2 inches. She weighs 105 pounds and is small-boned. Shopping with her and seeing how difficult it is to find something to wear can be a trying experience. (She wears a size 0 or 1.)

It is adults -- not her peers -- who make my daughter upset. I cannot tell you how many people have told her she looks anorexic. Claire is funny, talented, eats very well and has a boyfriend who thinks she's beautiful. She tries hard not to show the hurt caused by comments like, "Do you ever eat?" or "Don't you feed her?" and the most frequent, "You need to be careful. You're WAY too thin." She is NOT! I have taken her for her checkups, and her doctor says her weight is right where it should be.

Abby, please let people know that girls of all sizes can see themselves through others' words and opinions. I can only stick up for Claire when I'm with her. I have told her to set people straight and say, "I'm just the right size."

PETITE'S MOM IN SALEM, VA.

DEAR MOM: I'm printing your letter as a reminder to anyone who thinks it's permissible to make personal comments about the body types of strangers. However, if Claire were my daughter, I would tell her to be more assertive when responding to comments like the ones she's getting. I would tell her to say, "What you said is very rude. My doctor says my weight is fine, so keep your opinions to yourself."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Lohan thriller named worst at Razzies

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A year after his Academy Awards dream went up in smoke, Eddie Murphy has not just one consolation prize, but three: Razzie Awards as worst actor, supporting actor and supporting actress for the comedy "Norbit."

The fourth acting "dis-honor" announced at Saturday's Golden Raspberry Awards went to Lindsay Lohan, who actually was voted two worst-actress trophies for the thriller "I Know Who Killed Me," the worst-picture winner in which she played dual roles.

"I Know Who Killed Me" set a new Razzies record with eight awards, including worst screen couple for Lohan in her double role.

Topping the previous record of seven Razzies for both "Showgirls" and "Battlefield Earth," "I Know Who Killed Me" also won for worst director (Chris Sivertson), screenplay (Jeff Hammond), horror movie, and remake or rip-off (Razzies organizers viewed it as a cross between torture flicks such as "Saw" and a twisted update of "The Patty Duke Show").

AP

In this publicity photo released by Columbia TriStar, actress Lindsay Lohan is shown in a scene from "I Know Who Killed Me."

With his latest exercise in multiple roles, Murphy was the first person ever to win three acting Razzies in one year. He won as worst actor for the geeky title role, supporting actress as his tubby, shrewish wife and supporting actor as a stereotyped Asian man.

Some awards watchers say "Norbit" cost Murphy an Oscar, landing in theaters shortly before last year's ceremony and potentially displeasing enough academy voters that the balloting went against him for "Dreamgirls," for which he had been the supporting-actor favorite. Murphy lost at the Oscars to Alan Arkin for "Little Miss Sunshine."

"Part of why the Razzies exist is to make fun of the academy, which takes itself too seriously," said Razzies founder John Wilson. "If you had tried to make something certain to offend the average 90-year-old academy voter, I don't think you could have done a better job than the foul-mouthed, physically ugly, emotionally ugly movie he unleashed on the world."

Hoping to avoid the Hepatitis A-list

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of patrons of a posh Manhattan hot spot, including A-list celebrities who attended actor Ashton Kutcher's 30th birthday party there, may have been exposed to hepatitis A, health officials said.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene offered free vaccines through Sunday to anyone who had been to Socialista in the West Village during the city's Fashion Week this month, after a bartender there was found to have the infectious disease.

More than 700 people, including celebrities who attended Kutcher's bash, may have been exposed to the liver disease, health department officials said. Demi Moore, Bruce Willis, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ivanka Trump and Madonna reportedly attended the event. It wasn't clear whether any celebrities had been vaccinated.

"I just can't believe that in a restaurant as fancy as it was, that they would have this problem," said James Trinko, 29, after he received a vaccination Saturday. "It's kind of a pain in the butt to come out here and deal with this." But "you have to do it."

Trinka was one of a slow trickle of patrons who showed up at a nearby school for the vaccination.

The hepatitis A virus is found in fecal matter. If someone with the disease doesn't wash his or her hands properly and handles food or drinks, the virus can be spread.

The Socialista bartender, whose name was not released, handled glasses and garnishes, and there was no soap behind the bar, said health department spokeswoman Jessica Scaperotti.

The disease is rarely fatal, she said, and recommended that people be vaccinated within two weeks of exposure.

"Most people recover within a few weeks with bed rest and avoiding alcoholic beverages," she said.

Symptoms include jaundice, which is the yellowing of eyes and skin, fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea and diarrhea. No medication or antibiotics exist to treat the disease.

Britney Spears visits her 2 young sons

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears was reunited briefly with her sons Saturday, spending about three hours with the two little boys nearly two months after the troubled pop star last saw them.

Spears' father, James, played a key part in making possible the visit with Jayden James, 1, and Sean Preston, 2, said Elliot Mintz, a spokesman for Spears' ex-husband Kevin Federline.

Mintz wouldn't say where the reunion took place or who else was there, but People magazine reported that Spears' psychiatrist was present.

Spears had not been allowed to see the boys since Jan. 3, when she refused to return the children after a visitation. Police were called to her home, and a scene ensued that ended with Spears being taken to the hospital. She was hospitalized a second time four weeks later.

The visit came a day after Federline's attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan announced that the couple "agreed to a modification of the court's order" that had stripped Spears of her visitation rights.

Spears' parents went to Los Angeles around the time of her second hospitalization and have pushed to restore visitation rights to help their daughter recover.

A court commissioner gave Federline sole physical and legal custody of the former couple's boys and suspended Spears' visitation rights on Jan. 4.

Leading up the hospitalizations, Spears enaged in bizarre public behavior. Since divorcing Federline in November 2006 she shaved her head, was seen in public without underwear, ran over a celebrity photographer's foot and attacked a vehicle with an umbrella.

Alicia Keys postpones 2 UK tour dates

NEW YORK (AP)—Alicia Keys postponed two concerts on her European tour after being put on vocal rest by her doctor, her publicist said Saturday.

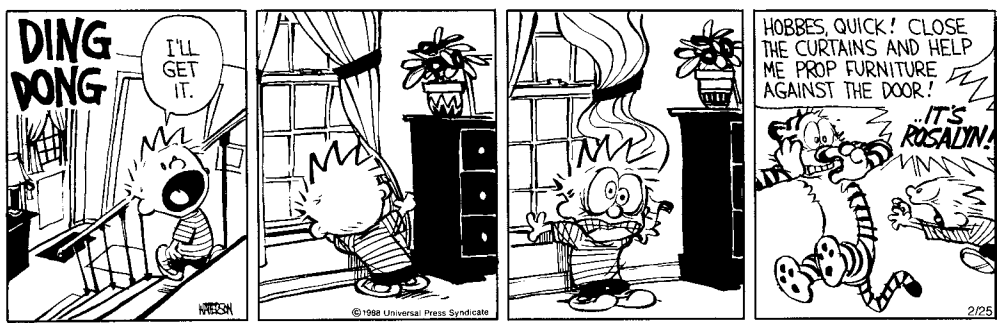
Keys, whose latest album, "As I Am," has sold millions of copies worldwide, was supposed to perform Monday in Glasgow, Scotland, and Tuesday in Manchester, England. But the Grammy-winning singer was told to spend the next few days off the stage because of laryngitis, publicist Patti Webster said in a statement.

The Glasgow and Manchester dates were to be rescheduled.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DING DONG
I'LL GET IT.
©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
HOBBES, QUICK! CLOSE THE CURTAINS AND HELP ME PROP FURNITURE AGAINST THE DOOR!
...IT'S ROSALYN!
2/25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

EEK! A CAT!
AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
EEK! A LAMP!
SIGH
JIM DAVIS 2-25
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Text GARFIELD to 29642 US ONLY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

IN AN ATTEMPT TO WORK FASTER AND BE MORE PRODUCTIVE...
ADAM, ARE THOSE ROLLERBLADE WHEELS ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR CHAIR?!?
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
2/25
BRIAN BASSET © 2008 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE - WWW.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU'RE ONLY TIPPING ME TEN PERCENT?
YEAH.
OKAY. YOU WANNA PLAY THAT WAY?
I FORGOT TO ADD ON THE TEN-DOLLAR FRESH GROUND PEPPER FEE.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

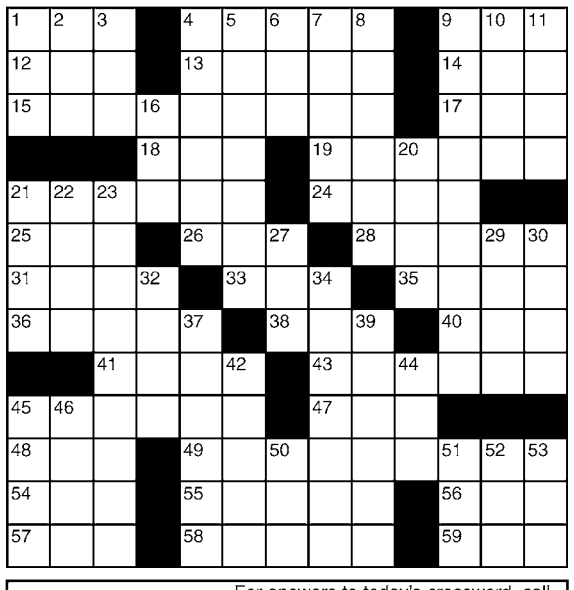
ACROSS
1 Run for exercise
4 "Star Wars" director
9 Earthenware container
12 Raw rock
13 — acid
14 Gorilla
15 Multi-frequency
17 TGIF'ers' bane (Abbr.)
18 Chart format
19 Beginning
21 More quickly
24 Island garlands
25 Latin 101 word
26 Depot (Abbr.)
28 Wealthy one
31 Lummox
33 Harvest goddess
35 Traditional tales
36 Moving
38 Deteriorate
40 Apprehend
41 Pile
43 Center
45 Region of Italy
47 Beerlike beverage
48 Born
49 Entrance
54 Marino or Quayle
55 Spooky
56 Jerry — Lewis
57 Peculiar
58 Gloomy
59 Pond carp

DOWN
1 Occupation
2 Bobby of hockey
3 Tracker or Prizm
4 Half the audience?
5 Author Eco
6 Spy novel org.
7 Year's records
8 Saturated
9 Fleming hero
10 Fairy-tale preposition
11 Kindly bloke
16 Suitable
20 Test tube
21 FDR's pooch
22 Andy's pal, on old radio
23 Indiana city
27 Springtime abbr.
29 Exam type
30 Actress Neuwirth
32 Layer
34 Its capital is Mogadishu
37 Brought up
39 Steering lever
42 Tabloid
44 Society newcomer
45 Loosen
46 Anthropologist Margaret
50 Before
51 Sort
52 Modern (Pref.)
53 "Agnus —"

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	W	E	■	A	W	L	S	■	A	T	O	M
R	A	T	■	G	A	I	T	■	R	O	P	E
I	N	N	■	R	I	M	E	■	N	O	E	S
A	T	A	F	E	V	E	R	P	I	T	C	H
■	■	■	L	E	E	■	N	E	E	■	■	■
A	L	I	A	S	■	J	U	G	■	L	O	T
L	A	C	Y	■	L	A	M	■	M	I	R	E
L	Y	E	■	B	A	R	■	C	O	Z	E	N
■	■	■	S	A	Y	■	A	H	A	■	■	■
P	I	T	C	H	E	D	B	A	T	T	L	E
A	C	R	E	■	T	O	Y	S	■	O	I	L
C	O	I	N	■	T	E	S	T	■	O	V	A
K	N	O	T	■	E	S	S	E	■	K	E	N

Saturday's answer 2-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Jeffre, 35; Sean Astin, 37; Tom Courtenay, 71; Sally Jessy Raphael, 73

Happy Birthday: There will be lots going on behind the scenes this year. You will have to ask questions if you want to be in the loop. Opportunities are present and money and deals can be made. Take action and you will succeed; let others take over and you will stand still. Your numbers are 10, 14, 22, 27, 41, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You have lots to gain if you help others. Your ability to find solutions and match what anyone else can offer will enhance your chances of advancement. Changes made now will lead to greater stability. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Go after what you want and don't let anyone stand in your way. Someone you love may not agree with your behavior but, if it helps you get ahead, you have to follow through. Take advantage of career and learning opportunities. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will get a response regarding a position or an opening that interests you. A personal connection to someone you are working with will develop. Travel for education or business will pay off down the road. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll make a big deal out of nothing. Contain your anger, enthusiasm and your actions so that you don't make a mistake you'll regret. An opportunity may be lost if you are too aggressive or stubborn. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A few alterations at home will make things easier for you but someone may complain in the interim. Love may stress you out, especially if you are uncertain or have met someone new. Proceed with caution and don't make a commitment to anyone just yet. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your unique way of handling situations and other people will put you in the category of a hero. Keep up the good work and, although someone may be jealous, you'll be the one to come out on top. Your true friends will be happy for you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You don't have to overspend in order to impress someone. A trip will spur some creative ideas that can help you choose a new direction. Don't let your emotions get the better of you or you may reveal too much personal information. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Concentrate on work and doing a good job instead of pointless arguing. It's easy for someone else to criticize you but, if you take what's being said literally, you are likely to lose ground. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Getting involved is the first step to getting ahead. You should offer your services and donate your time to something you believe in. A chance to meet someone who can boost your confidence and perhaps your income is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): By trying something new or visiting a destination to which you've never been, your eyes will be opened to a new way of doing things. A slight change of plans will lead to a more secure future. Do the unexpected. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Things are looking up so don't hold back when there is so much to gain. A chance meeting with someone who can help you out financially will boost your morale. Be outgoing, creative and inventive. Money is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Think and do is the game plan. Stop waffling and start to turn your ideas into something tangible. Taking action doesn't have to cost a lot. Sharing your ideas will lead to support and a possible partnership. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, unique, versatile and a fearless trendsetter. You are hard-working and energetic, with great potential. You aren't afraid to go it alone.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	8			3			1	4
6	1						7	3
	7		4		5		8	
		1		9		8		
4			6		8			1
		9		7		6		
	3		8		1		2	
7	4						3	8
1	9			2			6	5

Difficulty Level ★ 2/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	6	9	3	5	8	1	4
8	5	9	2	4	1	3	7	6
1	3	4	7	6	8	2	9	5
9	2	7	6	5	3	1	4	8
3	4	5	8	1	2	9	6	7
6	1	8	4	7	9	5	3	2
5	6	2	1	9	4	7	8	3
4	9	3	5	8	7	6	2	1
7	8	1	3	2	6	4	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REDOX POTENTIAL **Solution: 9 letters**

I	S	I	S	M	T	H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N	M
D	N	N	S	T	E	C	N	A	T	S	B	U	S	E
R	O	D	A	S	N	T	E	C	R	E	T	I	U	A
A	I	U	I	M	E	E	A	L	H	R	N	N	G	S
D	T	S	B	C	U	C	M	L	I	A	S	I	A	U
N	C	T	D	L	A	H	O	E	G	T	N	A	R	R
A	U	R	O	E	E	T	N	R	L	A	U	G	L	E
T	D	I	N	A	R	T	O	C	P	E	T	F	E	T
S	E	E	O	R	S	O	I	R	I	M	E	T	L	R
E	R	S	R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	N	N	E	I
R	O	T	P	E	C	C	A	S	S	E	A	E	C	P
E	L	C	A	T	H	O	D	E	G	E	H	G	T	L
T	O	N	Ⓝ	Ⓞ	Ⓡ	Ⓘ	I	Y	O	I	T	A	R	E
A	S	U	P	E	R	O	X	I	D	E	E	S	O	O
W	S	T	L	O	V	O	O	F	O	R	M	S	N	T

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Acceptor, Agent, Cathode, Change, Clear, Donor, Double, Electron, Elements, Forms, Futile, Gain, Humans, Hydrogen, Indicator, Industries, Iron, Loss, Measure, Metal, Methane, Nutrients, Organic, Organism, Oxidation, Oxygen, Process, Ratio, Reaction, Reduction, Salt, Sets, Standard, Stored, Substance, Sugar, Superoxide, Triple, Volts, Water

Last Saturday's Answer: Lobby

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contain 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR SALE - COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar For Sell. $20,000 or best offer. You must see to appreciate. #898-4866/233-1113

D' Pirate
SPORT BAR
is looking for attractive
Dancer, Waitress
TWA only
235-3663

WHATZIT Solution: The middle of nowhere

EMPLOYMENT

Tony Roma's/Capricciosa ACCOUNTANT
BS Acctg, CPA/foreign equiv pref. Min 2 yrs exp.
MS Excel/Word/Outlook. Great comm skills.
Valid driver's license. Police clearance required.
Email resume to mjg@wdiusa.com. Fax 322-7517
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

LSG Sky Chefs
WANTED
- COOK
- KITCHEN HELPER

Applications are available at LSG Sky Chefs main office Airport Road.
TEL.: 234-8258

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: Feb. 22, 2008 **Closing date: March 7, 2008**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies for Saipan Airport, Port of Saipan, and Tinian Airport/Seaport:

1-Executive Director
1-Airport Manager
2-Electricians
1-Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Seaport)
2-General Maintenance-I (Seaport)
3-Ports Police Trainees (Tinian)
1-Tariff Technician-I (Tinian)
2-General Maintenance-I (Tinian)
1-Comptroller
1-Civil Engineer
2-Mechanic-III

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at **www.cpa.gov.mp**. For Tinian's vacancies, application may be picked tip at CPA's Office at the Tinian International Airport.

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcript, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Pre-qualified applicants for the Ports Police Trainee vacancy must undergo and pass the physical fitness test as prerequisite for interview and selection process. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., March 7, 2008.***

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ REX I. PALACIOS
Chairman
Board of Directors

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

OWHER

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Apartment for Rent in Aslito. Fully furnished, 24 hrs water. Safe location. Call 256-3864/287-7769

BUSINESS SERVICES

BEAT THE HIGH COST OF GAS!
Visit: http://paquino.ffivideo.com
Business Opportunity-Be A Distributor

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 PRINTING MACHINE OPERATOR (M 6183)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Graphics Inc. @235-5496.

1 GRAPHIC ARTIST DESIGNER (M 6184)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Graphics Inc. @235-5496.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (M 6185)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

1 SALES ROUTE DELIVER (M 6186)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

2 DRESS MAKER (M 6187)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6188)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

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1 CARPENTER (M 6189)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (M 6190)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

1 CONST. WORKER (M 6191)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; transportation not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-021

SUBMISSION: March 12, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"DEVELOPMENT OF THE CNMI BROWNFIELDS VOLUNTARY RESPONSE PROGRAM GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND PROGRAM FORMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BE E-MAIL TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **1:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH,** AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

/s/ DAVID B. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-036

SUBMISSION: March 12, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BE E-MAIL TO **jamescallier@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **2:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. JIM CALLIER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR,** AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT **jamescallier@deq.gov.mp.** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

/s/ DAVID B. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-037

SUBMISSION: March 12, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND THE CONDUCT OF BROWNFIELDS INNVENTORY AND SURVEY OF MILITARY SITES OF THE ISLANDS OF TINIAN AND ROTA FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BE E-MAIL TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **3:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 27, 2008** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH,** AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **FEBRUARY 29, 2008.**

/s/ DAVID B. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(M 6192)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

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1 MASON (M 6193)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: J-One Corporation @322-9000.

1 COOK (M 6194)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: J-One Corporation @322-9000.

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1 CARPENTER (M 6195)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 YARD WORKER (M 6196)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(M 6197)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 (GAS) DIESEL MECHANIC
(M 6198)
Salary:$3.50/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

2 JANITOR (M 6199)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 BEAUTICIAN (M 6200)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 COOK (M 6201)
Salary:$3.05-$3.25/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

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1 FLORAL DESIGNER (M 6202)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Island Essence Inc. dba Island Florals & Gifts @235-2230.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (M 6203)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expense. Contact: A.C.C.S. Corporation dba Cartown @233-9441.

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2 SECURITY GUARD (M 6204)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: MD Aykub Ali dba Norita Security Services @287-0319.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (M 6205)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: D&W Saipan, Inc. dba Highway Express @234-5201.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(M 6206)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: MD Zakir Hossain @483-4045.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(M 6207)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: PSG Professional Corp. @235-5902.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(M 6208)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: K2 Corporation @234-3067.

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2 CONSTRUCTION WORKER
(M 6209)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Mu Sung Corporation @288-1363.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
(SM 0001)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0002)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE
(SM 0003)
Salary:$615.33-$750.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provide housing; self provide food; w/transportation service; worksmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Island Investment Inc. @234-6089.

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1 AIRCON & REF. TECH.
(SM 0004)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: E.C Entertainment & Promo Inc. dba Woolwich Auto Shop @235-3072/5.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

AMENDED NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
of
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
for
PROGRAM YEAR 2008
and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This advertisement is paid for by NMHC with CPD Funds.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of $2,020,822 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving $1,374,719 in Community Development Block Grants (CDGB); $583,259 Home Investment Partnership (HOME); and, $62,844 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2008.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Information concerning eligibility uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon request at the respective offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located on Garapan, Saipan; San Jose, Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2008 allocation, the NMHC will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. On Rota, March 18, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office, lst Floor, Sunset Villa Hotel;
2. On Tinian, March 19, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and,
3. On Saipan, March 20, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the public hearing is available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by calling Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1997 NISSAN PATHFINDER

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam credit Department at telephone number (670) 233-5000 extension 205, 206, 207 and 208.
Bids will be closed on
Friday, February 29, 2008
at **6:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

BANK OF GUAM
THE PEOPLE'S BANK
Member FDIC

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIAN PRINIPONEN ATKILON TÅNO' PUBLIKU

Segun i Lai Publiku 15-2, I Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku man-nånå'i' notisia pot i intension para ma'atkilan tano' publiku giya Saipan, Commonwealth Sankatan siha na Islas Marianas. Maseha håye na petsona interesao, siña muna halom opinion, infotmasion, yan kinentra pot i mapropone na atkilon tano publiku. I mapropopone i sigiente siha.

i. Para uma`atkila tano' publiku madeskribe kumo i numiron propiadåt 003 A 11, konsisiste kuårentai-nuebe mit kuåttro sientos sinkuentai-nuebe metro (49,459) square meters, 003 A 20, ha konsisiste kuårentai-nuebe mit, kinientos tres (49,503) square meters, 003 A 19, ha konsisiste dies mit(10,000) square meters, mas o` menos ni gaige giya Marpi, Saipan. Kopian i lugåt i sitiu gaige gi Depåttamenton Tano' Publiku ni libre hao umina.

ii. I para u inatkila este na tano i Win DnC. Co., LTD, un koporasion gi CNMI. I kuetpon direktot siha i sigente: Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee, yan si Kwi Dong Woo.

I presidente yan treserun i koporasion si Youngjai Kim. I segundo presidente si Kwon Hee Lee; sekritåria si Kwi Dong Woo.

iii. Si Señor Youngjai Kim (Presidente yan Treseru), Kwon Hee Lee (segundon i Presidente) yan si Kwi Dong Woo (Sekritårio), munigosiu i kontratan atkilon.

iv. I para u inatkila i lugåt debi de u usa solamente para u håtsa ya u establesi un hotel yan ottro siha fasilidåt.

I mapropone na tiempon kontråtan atkilon para bente-siñko åños (25 yrs.), yan appottunidat ma-ekstiende para talo kinse åños (15 yrs.).

I mapropone na åpas atkilon gi sakkan durånten i tiempo sigun i mapega na presiu segun i balin i lugåt.

v. I kabåles na kopian i mapropone na kontråtan atkilon siña un chule gi ofisinan I Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine'nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.

vi. Taya otro propositu guaha pot kontråtan atkilon tano publiko ni tineteka iya Marpi, Saipan.

vii. I Sekretarion Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku siempre hu aksepta tinige' opinion, mensåhen kinentra yan testimonio osino otro siha na propositu ginen i man-interesao na petsona åntes de Matsu 6, 2008 gi Ofisinan Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku siha ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaalo eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 19, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 20,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Win DnC Co., LTD., corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee me Kwidong Woo.

Samwoolul (President me Treasurer) corporation nge Youngjai Kim. Vice President nge Kwon Hee Lee. Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Youngjai Kim (Samwoolul me Treasurer), Kwon Hee Lee (Vice President) me Kwidong Woo (Sekkretório) corporation yeel.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer ameweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ghúúw(Móózo) 6, 2007 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 003 A 11, containing an area of approximately 49,459 square meters, more or less, Lot No. 003 A 19, containing an area of approximately 49,503 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 003 A 20, containing an area of approximately 10,000 square meters, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Win DnC Co., LTD., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee, and Kwidong Woo.

The president and treasurer of the corporation is Youngjai Kim. The vice president is Kwon Hee Lee. The secretary is Kwidong Woo.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Youngjai Kim, Mr. Kwon Hee Lee, and Mr. Kwidong Woo, president/treasurer, vice president, and secretary, respectively, of the corporation.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of constructing and developing a hotel and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 6, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 HUMAN RESOURCE ASSIS TANT (SM 0005)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Brilliant Star Montessori School dba Brilliant Star School @323-7827.

1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (SM 0006)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Brilliant Star Montessori School dba Brilliant Star School @323-7827.

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1 CARPENTER (SM 0007)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0008)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0009)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 MASON (SM 0010)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 CABLE SPLICER (SM 0011)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SM 0012)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

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1 COOK HELPER (SM 0013)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical covered under workers compensation. Contact: Robert J. Bracken dba Spicy Thai Noodle Place @235-8603.

2 EXECUTIVE CHEF (SM 0014)
Salary:$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical covered under workers compensation. Contact: Robert J. Bracken dba Spicy Thai Noodle Place @235-8603.

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1 FOUNTAIN SERVER (SM 0015)
Salary:$3.70/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: 3's Inc. dba Hula Girl @234-3533.

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1 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (MW 0001)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Twin Star Gift Shop @484-0616.

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3 STOREKEEPER (MW 0002)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Martha's Retail Shop Inc. @234-9774.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (MW 0003)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: LHD Corporation dba Tease @233-8838.

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4 SINGER (MW 0004)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation dba Club Happiness @234-6913.

4 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0005)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation dba Club Happiness @234-6913.

1 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER (MW 0006)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation @234-6913.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (MW 0007)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; employer provided workers compensation insurance & medical. Contact: Genpro International, Inc. @288-3820.

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3 COOK (MW 0008)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (MW 0009)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Emperor Enterprises Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant @233-3333.

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1 GARDENER (MW 0010)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: James/Penny Hofschneider @234-8040.

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2 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (MW 0011)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation; bonding & medical (as per contract). Contact: Philpan International Corp. dba MC-Asia Int'l @235-6100/6695.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

MEDICAL CLAIMS PROCESSING SERVICE

OPENING DATE: **FEBRUARY 11, 2008**
CLOSING DATE: **MARCH 12, 2008**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("NMIRF"), charged with administering the Group Health & Life Insurance Program ("GHLIP"), a separate and distinct trust component of the NMIRF, is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide **medical claims processing service**. To receive the RFP packet, you must fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(REANNOUNCEMENT)
JVA# 08-003

OPENING DATE: February 8, 2008 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

Position: Chief Internal Auditor
Location: Saipan

NATURE OF WORK: The Chief Internal Auditor is responsible for performing, planning and administering comprehensive internal audits of the NMI Retirement Fund and its component organizations. Responsibility includes supervising the work of lower-level auditors, ensuring that subordinate staff receives adequate direction, guidance, and training and that work performed meets prescribed standards. The Chief Internal Auditor reports directly to the Fund Board of Trustees.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Individual must possess a bachelor's degree and graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in accounting, finance, economics, business management, business administration, or criminal justice. Plus, he/she must have attained a professional certification. Acceptable certifications include: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), or other relevant audit-related certification. In addition, must have five years of auditing experience, with at least one year of experience in the role of lead auditor.

COMPENSATION: The compensation range for this position is between $40,000 - $50,000 per annum plus other benefits as mandated by law.

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All application packages must be received at the Fund office, Saipan; applications will be accepted by e-mail and/or postal mail. **Incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Packages must be marked "**JVA# 08-003 - Confidential.**" Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance** addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-010
Purchase and Installation of Air Conditioning System

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the purchase and installation of Air Conditioning Systems. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may now be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m**. There may be a fee when picking up a package. Please call 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 for information regarding fees.

Proposal Packages are due no later than March 7th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "**Local Business Preference**", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available to local vendors in this procurement. **For Proposers located outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu). There may be a processing fee.

Proposers are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour every six (6) months (or next effective dates) until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $7.50 per hour.

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC Procurement & Property
Property Management Office

/s/ Al Charfauros
NMC Facilities Maintenance
Manager

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Announcement #	Position/Title	Pay Level /Step	Per Annum	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date	Location
PSS-020-2007	**EDUCATION SPECIALIST HV (HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION SERVICE COORDINATOR) (AMENDMENT/ RE-ANNOUNCEMENT III)** (Non-Certified Application)	31,32,33,34 / 01-10	$23,706.21-$42,558.00	**Education Specialist I -** Applicants with Bachelors degree in Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, or related field plus at least two (2) years experience preferred, OR Associates Degree with four (4) years related work experience. **Education Specialist II -** Applicants with Bachelors degree in Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, or related field with 15 graduate semester hours (GSH) plus at least four (4) years experience preferred, OR Bachelors Degree with six (6) years related work experience. **Education Specialist III -** Applicants with Masters Degree in Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, or related field plus five (5) years work-related experience, OR Bachelors degree in Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, or related field with 15 graduate semester hours (GSH) plus at least seven (7) years experience preferred. **Education Specialist IV -** Applicants with Masters Degree in Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, or related field plus six (6) years work-related experience, OR Bachelors degree in Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, or related field with 15 graduate semester hours (GSH) plus at least eight (8) years experience preferred.	Until Filled	Headstart Program
PSS-058-2007	**PROGRAM MANAGER** (Non-Certified Application)	31,32,33,34 / 01-10	$23,706.21-$42,558.00	Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education, Education, Social Sciences, Human Development, Counseling or related field, plus four (4) years work-related experience. OR Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education, Education, Social Sciences, Human Development, Counseling or related field. Plus two (2) years work-related experience.	Until Filled	Headstart Program
PSS-062-2007	**LEGAL COUNSEL** (Non-Certified Application)	UNGRADED	$40,000.00-$60,000.00	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the CNMI bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must also have at least four (4) years legal work experience, preferably for government entities handling litigation and/or education issues and have strong writing and speaking skills. Good client relation skills and ability to work independently and productively as part of a team are essential.	March 4, 2008	Board of Education
PSS-2008-014	**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER III (OFFICE MANAGER)** (Non-Certified Application)	31/01-12	$23,706.21-$40,531.43	Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus six (6) years work related experience OR High School Graduate, plus ten (10) years work related experience.	February 29, 2008	Board of Education

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3064, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://**www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources** ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

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Applicant must have:

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- The ability to make recommendations to satisfy a customer's product and services needs.
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PTI – Susupe Office
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Post Office Box 500306 CK
Saipan MP 96950
Tel : 670-234-6600
Fax: 670-235-9559

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID IFB 08-017

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the C**onstruction of a Concrete One Story Building for the San Antonio Head Start Center**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-017" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-017, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Building, on February 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Pre-Bid Conference Schedule is subject to change.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-017

RENOVATION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE NO.1353 CIP OFFICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation of Government House No. 1353 CIP Office, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after February 19, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Laws 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the job site located at Capitol Hill. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 11, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW08-IFB17"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 14, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10-00 a.m. local time March 14, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 14, 2008, and must be received no later than March 27, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 2, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on March 19,2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bond must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of cat each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JOSE S. DEMAPAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
CIP Administrator

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid IFB 08-023

The CNMI Public School System and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of Building "J" to be located at Marianas High School, Saipan.**

Detailed information on the scope of work and specifications are available, for a fee, at Pacific Quick Print & Post located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. **All interested bidders, prior to obtaining copies of the detailed information, shall register with the PSS Office of Procurement & Supply.**

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-023" containing (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-023, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $ 3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008 and extending further, until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $ 7.50 per hour.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with CNMI Public School System Procurement Regulations. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the Contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

The CNMI Public School System hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

Pursuant to the Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Sixty (160) Calendar days beginning with the date of Notice to Proceed. The Contractor shall pay to the CNMI Public School System the greater sum of **U.S. $100.00 per day (One Hundred Dollars), or 2% of the total contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time**, not as a penalty, but as reasonable liquidated damages for failing, neglecting, or refusing to complete the work within the time herein specified, and said sums shall be paid for each consecutive calendar day that the Contractor shall be in default beyond the time stipulated for completing the work.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Building, on February 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Manuel A. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman

/S/ Carl Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Lakers down Clippers 113-95 to win 7th straight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers brought up their seventh straight NBA victory by beating the undermanned Los Angeles Clippers 113-95 on Saturday.

Pau Gasol scored 23 points and five teammates finished in double figures for the Lakers, who moved back into a tie with Phoenix for the Western Conference lead.

The winnings streak matches the Lakers' longest this season to be their best since they won 11 straight late in 2003-04.

The Lakers have also won six straight road games—their longest such streak in five years.

76ers 101, Heat 96, OT

In Miami, Philadelphia scored the final 10 points in overtime to send Miami to its 11th straight loss.

Andre Iguodala scored 24 points and converted a key late three-point play for the Sixers, who fell behind early in the extra period before coming on in the last few minutes.

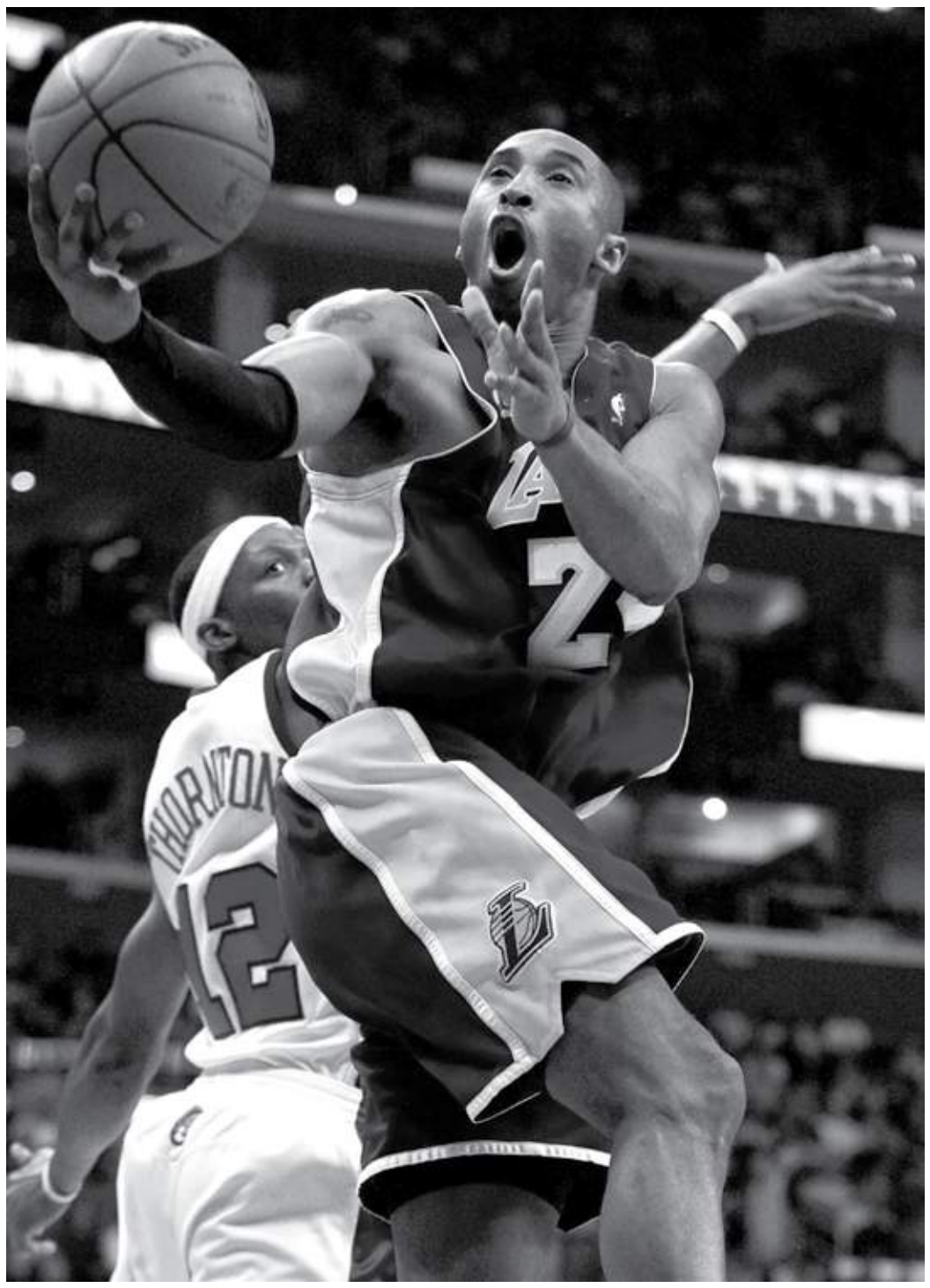
The Heat have lost 26 of 27 games to be clearly the NBA's worst team.

Nets 102, Pacers 91

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Richard Jefferson equaled his season high with 36 points to lead New Jersey over Indiana.

Vince Carter added 24 for the Nets, who are 2-1 since trading Jason Kidd to Dallas in a multi-player deal on Tuesday.

The Pacers have dropped four of the past five to be 2-1/2 games off the Eastern Conference playoff spots.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant lays the ball up while being defended by Los Angeles Clippers' Al Thornton during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Wizards 110, Bobcats 95

In Washington, the home side broke through for only its second win from 12 games by downing Charlotte.

Antawn Jamison scored 22 points and DeShawn Stevenson added 20 points for the Wizards.

Bucks 115, Nuggets 109

In Milwaukee, the home side rallied from 23 points down to beat Denver.

Michael Redd scored a season-high 42 points, including five free throws in the final 1:13, for the Bucks.

The Nuggets led by 23 in the second quarter, 64-50 at halftime and 99-92 with less than seven minutes remaining. They couldn't hold off the Bucks, who made 13 of 14 free throws in the final 1:35 to seal victory.

Spurs 98, Hornets 89

In San Antonio, the home side won its fifth straight by downing New Orleans, moving into a tie with the Hornets atop the Southwest Division.

Manu Ginobili had 30 points and a career-high 12 assists, while Tim Duncan added 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs.

Jazz 100, Hawks 94

In Salt Lake City, Utah brought up its 14th straight home win by downing Atlanta.

Carlos Boozer had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Jazz, who remain 2-1/2 games clear atop the Northwest Division.

The Hawks will close their stretch of six straight road games on Monday in San Antonio.

Tennessee ends Memphis' perfect season

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—No. 1 no more. And the perfect season is gone, too. Tyler Smith hit a turnaround jumper in the lane with 26.5 seconds left and No. 2 Tennessee knocked off the nation's last unbeaten team, edging top-ranked Memphis 66-62 on Saturday night.

Tennessee (25-2) won on a night when star guard Chris Lofton scored only 7 points, beating the Tigers with a dominating performance on the boards. Lofton did finish it off, though, hitting a couple of free throws with 4.5 seconds to go after Memphis intentionally missed at the line.

Memphis (26-1) lost at home for the first time since Jan. 2, 2006, ending the nation's longest home winning streak at 47 games.

"We've just got to learn from it. We lost," Robert Dozier said. "They just out-toughed us. They get every loose ball, every offensive rebound. They just outplayed us."

The Tigers had hoped to use this game to show their lofty record was proof they were the nation's best team, not the beneficiaries of playing in an unheralded league, Conference USA.

And, of course, they wanted to stay on track to become the first team since Indiana in 1976 to make it all the way through the season with a perfect record.

But the Hoosiers can rest easy. At the end, Tennessee's players walked off the court in triumph, holding up the name across the front of their orange jerseys to taunt the stunned crowd. The small group of Vols fans who actually got in the building hung around to chant "We're No. 1! We're No. 1!"

Tennessee surely will be No. 1 when the next poll comes out—for the first time in school history.

Just as flamboyant coach Bruce Pearl predicted at a pep rally before the game, then again at halftime.

"I wanted to make sure our guys knew we were playing for something," Pearl said. "I don't know if we're the best team in the country. I knew we were 40 minutes away from being No. 1."

Smith scored 16 points to lead the Vols, while Wayne Chism and J.P. Prince added 13 apiece. But Tennessee did its best work on the boards, overpowering the Tigers with a season-high 50 rebounds. Memphis had 34.

"Rocky Top, you'll always be, home sweet home to me," they sang, having the arena to themselves after the Memphis faithful headed out onto Beale Street to drown their sorrows. "Good ol' Rocky Top, Rocky Top Tennessee."

The Tigers were up when Smith took a pass from Lofton, backed in and hit the jumper for a 62-61 lead. Antonio Anderson missed badly for Memphis at the other end, and the Tigers were forced to foul.

"I really don't even remember," Smith said. "I just remember the shot going in."

Prince hit a pair of free throws to make it a three-point game, and Tennessee wisely fouled before Memphis could go for a tying 3. Instead, Derrick Rose made the first attempt in a 1-and-1, but had to miss the second intentionally, in hopes the Tigers could grab the rebound.

No way. Tennessee came down with it and Lofton was fouled. He only went 2-of-11 from the field, but calmly sank the two foul shots that finished off the Tigers' perfect record.

While Rose was trying to miss, Memphis clanked plenty of foul shots it was trying to make. The Tigers, one of the nation's worst free throw-shooting teams, lived up to their ranking by making just 8-of-17 at the line.

Rose led Memphis with 23 points, but Chris Douglas-Roberts was the only other player in double figures with 14 points.

The Tigers looked in good shape when Douglas-Roberts scored on a layup with 2:28 left, putting his team up 61-58.

Then Smith went to work. He answered with a drive of his own, pulling the Vols to 61-60, then hit the game winner - but only after Memphis squandered three chances on one possession to extend the margin.

Doneal Mack missed a 3, but the Tigers grabbed a long rebound. Rose missed, and Memphis chased it down again. Finally, after playing without the ball for some 90 seconds, the Vols finally grabbed it away off an attempt by Dozier that banged off the front of the rim.

A couple of hours before tipoff, flamboyant Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl held a pep rally with the Volunteer faithful at a sports restaurant near the FedExForum. He made a bold promise: "All I can tell you is we're 40 minutes away from being No. 1."

Then his team proved him right.

Alleged pic puts Rocket at Canseco party

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Clemens' lawyer was told a photograph exists that shows the pitcher at a party hosted by Jose Canseco, an issue that was disputed in Congress this month.

A June 1998 party at Canseco's house in Florida was one of several topics discussed during Clemens' testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Feb. 13.

Clemens' former trainer, Brian McNamee, said the seven-time Cy Young Award winner was at the party. Clemens denied being there when he gave a deposition to congressional investigators on Feb. 5, then testified eight days later that it was possible he could have stopped by after playing golf.

In the Mitchell Report on doping in baseball, released in December, McNamee alleged that Clemens spoke with Canseco at the barbecue and soon after approached the trainer about using performance-enhancing drugs.

McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone at least 16 times, possibly more, between 1998 and 2001. Clemens has vehemently denied those accusations several times, including under oath before Congress.

Congress is deciding whether to ask the Justice Department to investigate the contradictory testimony given by Clemens and McNamee under oath. Whether Clemens attended Canseco's party could affect both his and McNamee's credibility.

Clemens and Canseco played for the Toronto Blue Jays in 1998.

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said in a statement Friday that on Feb. 12 he was contacted by a former neighbor of Canseco's.

"He said he had a photograph of his son with Roger in a pool at a party at Canseco's house. He said that friends who had seen the photograph were suggesting to him that he sell it. I expressed no interest in buying it, but urged him to let our investigator visit with him, view the photograph and interview him. He said he wanted to talk to his son first and would call me back that day. I gave him all of my phone numbers and urged him to call. Unfortunately, I never heard back from him," the statement said.

"It is impossible for us to comment on the photograph itself because we haven't seen it. We know that baseball announcers broadcasting the games at the time said Roger was not at the party. Jose Canseco has said Roger was not at the party, as has Canseco's former wife. Roger was playing golf at the time of the party, and has stated that he may have stopped by the Canseco house after playing golf before heading to the ballpark for the game."

McNamee's lawyer, Richard Emery, said Friday he didn't have the photo but thought at some point it would be obtained by the congressional committee and/or prosecutors.

The photo's existence was first reported by the Daily News.

Tiger sets up all-US final at Match Play

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Tiger Woods faced another pivotal putt on the 17th hole, this one from only 12 feet, the stakes much higher Saturday afternoon than his signature 35-foot eagle putt he made three days earlier in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

Typical of his year, success was inevitable.

Woods with a putt to win is becoming like Michael Jordan taking the last shot, David Ortiz at bat in the bottom of the ninth.

"It's fun to have opportunity, whether you succeed or fail," he said. "Luckily over my career, I've succeeded more than I've failed."

Call this another success, and another trip to the finals.

Woods' birdie on the 17th carried him to a 2-up victory Saturday over defending champion Henrik Stenson, putting him in the 36-hole final match against Stewart Cink, whose flawless front nine gave him a 4-and-2 victory over Justin Leonard.

"Every match is its own little battle," Woods said, who won for the 22nd time in his last 25 matches at this fickle event. "One of the things I learned from my dad is in match play, you have 18 battles. You've just got to win more than they do."

This was a fight that went the distance, typical of Stenson, who played at least 18 holes in all five of his rounds. The big-hitting Swede never led, but he was never far away, and when he holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th, it was all square with two holes to play.

Woods never blinked.

His 5-wood from the fairway was pulled and landed near the edge of the bunker, leaving him an uphill, sidehill lie that he was thrilled to get within 12 feet of the cup. Stenson found the rough, laid up and hit a poor wedge that took birdie out of the picture.

"I've been in that position before," Woods said. "I've played umpteen more matches in match play than he has. And I've seen it all. And nothing really surprises me out there."

It was hardly a surprise to Stenson or anyone else Woods has beaten this week in a tournament he calls the toughest to win in golf this side of the four major championships.

He was 3 down with five holes left when he won four straight holes against J.B. Holmes in the opening round, capped by that 35-foot eagle putt on the 17th. He had to make 12 birdies in 20 holes to outlast Aaron Baddeley. In a tight quarterfinal match against K.J Choi earlier Saturday, Woods seized momentum by chipping in for eagle.

Now he's 36 holes away from owning the world of golf, this in a literal sense.

Woods already has won 14 times in 25 starts at the World Golf Championships, but a victory Sunday would be the first time he has held all three titles, having won the CA Championship and Bridgestone Invitational last year.

He faces Cink, a friend and a foe from college, who has proven to be no pushover at Dove Mountain.

Cink has 33 sub-par holes in the 80 he has played over five rounds, and only once has he been extended to 18 holes. He was particularly brilliant against Leonard, shooting a 29 on the front nine for a 4-up lead.

And best news is that Cink starts this final round with a fighting chance.

The last time he played with Woods in the final group was last month at the Buick Invitational, when Cink started eight shots behind.

"It seems like more often than not, I've been trailing by eight or 10 shots," Cink said with a grin.

His last victory came at Firestone in 2004, when he built a five-shot lead over Woods and two others, winning by four. Two years later, Cink made up three-shot deficit against Woods over the last three holes, losing in a four-hole playoff.

Experience, among other things, still favors the world's No. 1 player.

This will be the fourth time Woods has reached the final match, losing to Darren Clarke in 2000, winning in 2003 and 2004. Cink had never made it past the quarterfinals until Saturday.

Cink is 0-for-85 on the PGA Tour since his last victory. During that time, Woods is 22-for-56.

AP

Tiger Woods, right, shakes hands with his opponent, K.J. Choi, left, of South Korea, as Woods defeats Choi in the match in the fourth round of the Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament at The Gallery Golf Club at Dove Mountain, in Marana, Ariz., Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008

"It feels great just to get this far," Cink said. "To be in the final, it's going to be a blast."

It will be the sixth All-American final in 10 years of this World Golf Championship.

No played better Saturday than Cink. He built an early lead against U.S. Open champion Angel Cabrera and pulled away with four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine for a 3-and-2 victory in the quarterfinals.

That his semifinal match against Leonard went 16 holes was a minor miracle.

Cink holed a chip to match birdies with Leonard at the third hole, took a 2-up lead with birdies on the next two holes, then knocked in a 20-foot eagle putt on the seventh and made a birdie putt from that range on No. 8 to lead by four.

Woods had a tougher battle.

He and Stenson halved seven of the first nine holes, and Woods had to hang on with a 15-foot birdie putt on the eighth with Stenson already in close range, and a 10-foot par on the ninth. After Woods' chipped in for eagle, Stenson stayed close until tying him on the 16th.

"He's been pushed a few times this week, and that's all any of us can do," Stenson said. "Eventually, we'll get him."

Cink got him once, but it was too long ago to remember.

He was at Georgia Tech when a Woods-led Stanford team came out to the Atlanta area. A day before the practice sessions, Cink played Woods at Druid Hills and beat him.

"I've known him practically as long as anybody else on tour has probably known Tiger Woods," Cink said. "He's just fun to play with. When you play with him in the latter part of the tournaments, it means you're doing something well."

Agent: Zach Thomas set to join Cowboys

Linebacker Zach Thomas is headed home to Texas to play for the Dallas Cowboys in the state where he was a high school and college standout before 12 seasons with the Miami Dolphins.

Thomas has reached an agreement on a one-year, $3 million deal with the Cowboys, agent Drew Rosenhaus confirmed Saturday night. Thomas, a seven-time Pro Bowler who missed much of last season because of concussions and migraines, has already taken a physical for the Cowboys.

"It is going to be signed in the next couple of days," Rosenhaus said.

The deal includes a $1 million base salary, a $1 million signing bonus and a $1 million incentive-based bonus based on playing time that Rosenhaus said should be easily attained.

Thomas was released Feb. 14 by the Dolphins, part of the massive rebuilding project being overseen in Miami by new vice president of football operations Bill Parcells, the former Cowboys coach. The Dolphins were 1-15 last season.

The 34-year-old linebacker said after his release from the Dolphins that he planned to play with another team next season, more than likely one that can contend for a Super Bowl title—and give Thomas a chance at winning his first championship.

"I am healthy and look forward to playing in 2008, but will always consider myself a Miami Dolphin," Thomas said then.

Thomas also visited with the New England Patriots and New Orleans Saints. All three teams offered similar deals, but Thomas wanted to play in Texas.

"It was a huge factor, a gigantic factor," Rosenhaus said. "At the end, it was the difference. It's a great opportunity for him."

Thomas is a native of Pampa, Texas, and then went to Texas Tech. The Dolphins selected Thomas 154th overall out of Tech in 1996. The 5-foot-11 linebacker then led Miami in tackles 10 times and is the team's career leader in that category with 1,642. His 168 games in Miami are the most by a defensive player.

After missing only 13 games in his first 11 years, and having a career-best 165 tackles in 2006, Thomas missed 11 games last season. He still had 52 tackles in the five games he played.

Thomas missed two games in September because of a concussion. Then after Miami's loss to New England on Oct. 21, his vehicle was rear-ended on Florida's Turnpike. He didn't play again and was placed on injured reserve against his wishes in December because of nagging migraines, an aftereffect of the car crash.

Bears sign QB Grossman to 1-year deal

CHICAGO (AP)—Rex Grossman signed a one-year contract Saturday with the Chicago Bears and will compete for the starting quarterback job.

Grossman, a 2003 first-round draft pick, started the Super Bowl for the Bears after an up-and-down season in 2006. He struggled again last year and was benched following the third game. He returned for five more games before injuring his left knee.

Grossman passed for 913 yards with three touchdowns and one interception for an 80.2 passer rating when he returned. In the first three games, his 45.2 rating with one TD and six interceptions contributed to the Bears' 1-2 start.

"Rex has won a lot of football games for us around here," coach Lovie Smith said. "You look at how he played at the end of the football season until he came up with that injury, he is playing good football."

Grossman has started 30 games with 489 completions in 900 attempts (54.3 percent) for 5,907 yards with 31 touchdowns and 33 interceptions. His career passer rating is 70.9.

"We wanted him because we feel like he gives us the best opportunity to be the best team we can be going into this next season," general manager Jerry Angelo said.

Angelo confirmed Grossman will battle Kyle Orton for the starting quarterback spot and that there could be two other quarterbacks on the roster next season. Angelo did not include veteran backup Brian Griese in those plans, and it's possible Griese will be cut in early March before he is due a $300,000 roster bonus.

"It's an open competition," Smith said. "It's not like we promised Rex a starting position, or any of the guys a starting position. They're coming to Chicago because they feel good about competing for the starting job."

Angelo said stabilizing the quarterback position is the team's biggest priority, but Grossman's contract doesn't help much because he would be a free agent after the 2008 season without a contract extension.

"With one-year deals you're not solving anything," Angelo said. "You're still in the hunt, so to speak. We certainly feel good about the people who are contending at the position, but it's not solved yet."

The Bears hope signing Grossman provides leverage to bring wide receiver Bernard Berrian back to the team. He becomes a free agent Friday.

"We're using everything we possibly can," Smith said. "Bernard has been a big part of what we've done. He's come up through the ranks with us.

"We'd like to see him finish it at our place. Hopefully, signing guys like Rex will help."

Agent Drew Rosenhaus said Saturday he expects Berrian and fellow client Lance Briggs to enter free agency rather than sign a contract with the Bears.

"I would say at this time I would project that those guys would at least get to free agency, or at least the beginning of it" Rosenhaus said at the NFL scouting combine. "But the Bears are going to be in the mix as we continue to talk with other teams.

"We're going to have a good, healthy dialogue with them."

Yap sizzles as Purefoods ties series, 2-2

MANILA, Philippines—James Yap knows he won't be around for Game 5 of Purefoods' 2007-08 Smart PBA Philippine Cup championship series with Sta. Lucia Realty.

So he made sure there will be something to go back to when he returns.

With the prolific one-time league MVP scattering a conference-high 32 points, the Giants posted a 106-98 win over the Realtors Friday to level the best-of-seven series at two games apiece at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ten of Yap's points came in the fourth quarter, four inside the last 2:03 that shattered the game's last deadlock at 95 and pointed the way to a follow-up to their 118-107 win last Wednesday.

It was Yap's highest scoring game since he put up 40 in last year's Fiesta Cup wildcard phase and somewhat helped ease the sting of his absence on Sunday.

Yap was meted a one-game suspension and fined P20,000 for his foul on SLR's Joseph Yeo in Game 3. He was initially assessed a flagrant foul penalty one but that was upgraded to a penalty two last Thursday by league officials upon review of the game tapes.

Purefoods has initially won an appeal to move the suspension from Friday to Sunday, although the PBA Board still has to decide on another appeal to have Yap serve it in the next conference.

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio said his team is ready to play without Yap, even though it will be doing so for the first time in three years.

"We will go out and play, we will come out strong, with or without James. But definitely we will miss James," he said, adding it is more important that they are definitely back in the series.

"It's about fighting and surviving again," he stated.

Actually, Sta. Lucia is also likely to miss one key player on Sunday.

Yeo was also slapped with a flagrant foul 2 for hacking a driving Noy Castillo in the last 17.4 seconds of the game and promptly ejected. He has been summoned to appear before PBA Commissioner Sonny Barrios Saturday morning.

Kerby Raymundo added 26 points and eight rebounds, Peter June Simon 17 and Roger Yap 12 points in a balanced offensive show that took away much of the limelight from SLR's Kelly Williams, earlier named as the Best Player of the Conference.

Williams scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, complimenting Bitoy Omolon's team-high 19 and Yeo's 18.

Marlou Aquino and Dennis Miranda each had at least 12 points and the Realtors came back from a 51-61 halftime deficit and into the thick of things with a big 37-point third quarter that gave them an 88-83 lead.

All those, however, went for naught when SLR scored only 10 points on 3-of-17 field goal shooting compounded by seven of their total 22 turnovers in the fourth period.

After Omolon's undergoal stab off Miranda's ninth assist tied the count for the eighth and last time, Yap scored on two charities and followed up Simon's own free throws with a lay-up to spark Purefoods' windup.

Purefoods rewrote its scoring record in a half for the second straight game as Yap and Raymundo combined for 29 points while Simon and Yap each had at least 10 points coming off the bench, giving the Giants their 10-point halftime spread. They had 59 in the first half last Wednesday.

Sta. Lucia had not lost back-to-back games since last December, but appeared headed for certain defeat when it failed to take care of the ball in the first half alone, committing seven of its 11 in the first half right on the opening period.

The Realtors' relatively high first half score was also slightly deceiving as only Marlou Aquino's 11 points off the bench led the team in the first 24 minutes while the likes of Williams and Joseph Yeo struggled.

Not helping Sta. Lucia's cause any was Dennis Espino being called for his third foul at the 7:55 mark of the second quarter and Williams following suit some three minutes later.

No such problems faced Purefoods, with Roger Yap highlighting the team's romp with a buzzer-beating triple that banked in, helping pull the Giants away from a 56-51 count.

Otherwise, the only scary moment for Gregorio came when Raymundo and Marc Pingris each got slapped with a technical for excessive complaining after Raymundo was called for an offensive foul against Williams in the final 2:58 of the first quarter. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

Williams named Best Player of the Conference

MANILA, Philippines—Machine Gun Kelly is on a fiery roll, gaining yet another feather in his cap in only his sophomore year in the local pro league.

Prized Sta. Lucia Fil-Am player Kelly Williams won a Best Player of the Conference award after taking the Rookie of the Year honors last season.

Williams, a do-it-all forward out of the University of Oakland in Detroit, emerged the Smart PBA Philippine Cup Best Player of the Conference, beating for the coveted award Alaska's Willie Miller, Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo, Air21's Arwind Santos and Coca-Cola's Asi Taulava.

Williams was the first Sta. Lucia player ever to win a Best Player of the Conference award.

Marlou Aquino and Danny Seigle were the only players to win the same award on a quicker pace. Both players won a BPC plum in their rookie years in the league—in 1996 and 1999, respectively. Aquino won it while still with Ginebra in the 1996 Governors Cup while Seigle won it with the Beermen in the 1999 Governors Cup.

"It's a big honor for me to win this award. I'm sharing this with my teammates. Without them, I wouldn't get this," said Williams, whose mother, Andrea, is from Cebu.

The 6-foot-5 high-flyer, a member of the RP team in the recent FIBA Asia Olympic qualifier in Tokushima, Japan, said he'll be happier if they win the Smart PBA

Philippine Cup championship.

Williams was the runaway winner of the award as he gained the nod of the media, ABC Sports and the Commissioner's Office. He placed second to Santos in the statistical race. ***(ww.pba.com.ph)***

MARIANAS CUP

From Page 28

The top teams in their respective pools in both divisions advanced to the double-elimination phase of the tournament yesterday.

After two days of intense battle on the sand court, Japan's Miki and Chie won the women's title by foiling the title defense of Italy's Federica Tonon and new partner Dawn of Hawaii.

The Japanese duo dived and scrambled for every ball in order to return the consistent attacks made by their opponents inside the court. In the end the Japanese celebrated with a 15-9 win to claim the bragging rights of the Queen of the sand courts for the 2008 edition.

The finals in the men's divisions was still being played at press time after a 30-minute rain delayed the women's match.

As of press time, defending champion Daisuke Matsumoto and Shigekazu Fujimatsu were playing Hamaguchi and Hatabe in an all-Japan semifinal with the winner facing 2004 winners Paul Baxter and Richard Steele.

Baxter and Steele were undefeated in the entire tournament and even pulled off a hard-earned 25-24 win over the duo of Baxter and Chris Nelson in the quarterfinals.

Hamaguchi and Hatabe then faced Baxter and Nelson in the loser's bracket with the former scoring a 15-9 win to earn the right of facing Matsumoto and Fujimatsu in the semis.

More than 90 players from Hawaii, California, Japan, Guam, Korea, Italy, Russia, and the CNMI have already participated in the Marianas Cup in the last three years.

The event is approved by the FIVB and USA Volleyball and is listed in the FIVB website as a country-against-country tournament.

Fujimatsu and Matsumoto won last year's edition, beating Saki Naivana and J.R. Rosetti in the finals.

ALEGRE'S

From Page 28

Philippines. His remains were flown to Manila at 2:40am on Saturday via Asiana Airlines.

Alegre's relatives took his remains from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila at around noon. Sister Irene left Saturday afternoon via Continental Airlines' direct flight to Manila.

Alegre was born in the town of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, which is located north of Manila. He finished high school at Sta. Lucia Academy in Barangobong village where he was a member of the varsity team.

He then pursued his undergraduate studies at St. Louis College in San Fernando City, La Union, taking up Architectural Drafting after their family moved there from Ilocos Sur. Alegre was also a member of the SLC varsity team.

Alegre and brother Tom even played for the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant's team in La Union where they joined inter-commercial leagues. They also represented San Fernando City in inter-town leagues in Ilocos Sur.

At times Rick and Tom are coached by Mario in several teams that they played together where they won numerous championships and individual awards.

Rick is the youngest among the eight siblings of Mariano Alegre and Josefina Arconado of Ilocos Sur. He is survived by his parents, son Ric-Ric, and brothers and sisters Bobot, Amy, Nestor, Irene A. Valencia, Linda, Mario, and Tom.

The 39-year-old Alegre, who is considered the heart-and-soul of every team that he played with, died last Feb. 13 during Aqua Resort Club's game against Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Alegre was born on Oct. 6, 1968 in Sta. Lucia Ilocos Sur but grew up in San Fernando, La Union.

Aside from being a player Alegre, who is a former CNMI Men's National Team member, also coached teams to numerous titles and officiated games in the youth leagues.

BANMI

From Page 28

The rest of the coaches are either Level I or no level at all.

BANMI would conduct a leveling and coaches clinic to other interested individuals where Rangamar and Aguon, who are the certified instructors, will conduct the programs.

"Leveling and accreditation are BANMI's plans to further improve the quality of coaching in the CNMI. [Aguon] and me would be conducting the leveling and coaches clinic," said Rangamar.

He added that if coaches want to upgrade their level they would invite someone from FIBA Oceania to conduct the clinic.

Rangamar said by upgrading the level of the coaches, the players' skills and knowledge of the sport would also improve. "Players in the 14- and 18-and-under divisions would gradually improve. Everything is a continuing process and as they grow older they would be introduced into more detailed training so when they get to the level of the National team you won't teach anymore about fundamentals."

Rangamar said BANMI would collect membership fees from all who want to be part of the coaches association with the money to be used to buy materials and other equipment they would use in conducting clinics.

He said membership to the coaches association is open to all with anyone can be an official or one of the committee members. However, Rangamar said that they would require everyone to be certified in order for them to be a coach.

MENUDO

From Page 28

perennial title contender Pikan Gaga continued its march to end the season undefeated, this time claiming Ta Chagi as another victim.

The win hiked Pikan Gaga's record to 8-0 as they enjoy a four-game lead over Seikid and YoYo's, which hold similar 4-4 records. Beach Jammers (3-5) and Ta Chagi (1-7) complete the five-team field.

Seikid outlasted Beach Jammers in a three-set sweep, 25-23, 25-18, 17-15.

Games tomorrow in the men's division will have the Home Boyz battling Ma Numel'u at 6pm, while Beach Jammers take on No Fear in the next game. Menudo will face Ol'Aces at 8pm with No Feat clashing with Fanians in the 9pm final match.

Pikan Gaga, meanwhile, will try to keep its unbeaten slate clean when they collide with Beach Jammers in the 6pm first game and will be followed by the Seikid- YoYo's match.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	41	12	.774	–
Toronto	29	24	.547	12
New Jersey	25	31	.446	17 1/2
Philadelphia	25	32	.439	18
New York	17	38	.309	25

Southeast Division

Orlando	35	22	.614	–
Washington	26	29	.473	8
Atlanta	22	31	.415	11
Charlotte	19	37	.339	15 1/2
Miami	9	44	.170	24

Central Division

Detroit	40	15	.727	–
Cleveland	31	24	.564	9
Chicago	22	32	.407	17 1/2
Indiana	22	34	.393	18 1/2
Milwaukee	21	35	.375	19 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	37	17	.685	–
San Antonio	37	17	.685	–
Dallas	36	19	.655	1 1/2
Houston	35	20	.636	2 1/2
Memphis	14	41	.255	23 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	36	20	.643	–
Denver	33	22	.600	2 1/2
Portland	29	26	.527	6 1/2
Seattle	15	39	.278	20
Minnesota	11	42	.208	23 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	38	17	.691	–
Phoenix	38	17	.691	–
Golden State	33	22	.600	5
Sacramento	26	28	.481	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	19	34	.358	18

Yesterday's Games

Washington 110, Charlotte 95
Philadelphia 101, Miami 96, OT
New Jersey 102, Indiana 91
Milwaukee 115, Denver 109
San Antonio 98, New Orleans 89
Utah 100, Atlanta 94
L.A. Lakers 113, L.A. Clippers 95

MATCH PLAY RESULTS

Quarterfinals

Tiger Woods (1), United States, def. K.J. Choi (9), South Korea, 3 and 2.
Henrik Stenson (13), Sweden, def. Woody Austin (37), United States, 2 up.
Stewart Cink (22), United States, def. Angel Cabrera (14), Argentina, 3 and 2.
Justin Leonard (50), United States, def. Vijay Singh (10), Fiji, 1 up.°Ë

Semifinals

Tiger Woods (1), United States, def. Henrik Stenson (13), Sweden, 2 up.
Stewart Cink (22), United States, def. Justin Leonard (50), United States, 4 and 2.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Indoor Standings

Men's Division

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Menudo	9	2	696	546	27
No Fear	7	3	625	566	19
Ol'Aces	7	4	648	640	18
Fanians	6	4	598	554	18
Islanders	6	5	629	637	16
CH-Hammer	5	6	650	628	16
Home Boyz	5	6	616	650	15
Beach Jammers	2	8	542	622	8
Ma Numel'u	1	10	544	703	7

Women's Division

Pikan Gaga	8	0	500	418	17
Seikid	4	4	469	457	14
YoYo's	4	4	483	470	12
Beach Jammers	3	5	449	493	9
Ta Chagi	1	7	402	474	8

PF-Points scored by team
PA-Points scored against team
SW-Sets won

Falcons open title bid vs Tigers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Baseball fans will be in for a treat as the repeat-seeking Falcons of Tanapag will open up its title defense against the Tigers as action in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League opens today at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Falcons of manager Doru Camacho and Tony Rogolifoi's Tigers, formerly known as the Masters, collide at 6:30pm in a rematch of last year's finals. The Falcons won the title via a 3-0 sweep of the Masters last season.

Six other teams will also try to stop the Falcons' title defense this year. Aside from the Falcons and Tigers the other competing teams are Kabur (formerly known as Rubak), Rock Steady (Bud Kings), Ford Rangers, Korean Dreams, Komoro, and D-9ers.

JON PEREZ
The Tanapag Falcons huddle up before stepping into the field in last year's finals of the Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Mel Tenorio's Rock Steady battles the Ford Rangers of Craig Tenorio while the manager Park Sand Do's Korean Dreams take on Jay Han's Komoro on Feb. 29.

The last two teams, the D9ers of manager Chel Castro and Dennis Renguul's Kabul will make their respective debuts on March 3, Monday, when they take the field at 6:30pm.

SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said teams have until today to pay in full the $800 entrance fee. Checks can be made payable to SML.

Half of the eight participating teams are already paid in full, while the other half have not yet completely paid and promised to settle their dues today. Teams have assured Rogolifoi they will pay their dues today.

Rogolifoi said they will still allow teams to play even if they failed to pay today but on the condition that they would settle their dues before the end of the season or all of their won games will be nullified.

Games in the Budweiser-SML will be played every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30pm at the FMP Field.

The Falcons are expected to field the same championship-winning team next season, while the Masters, now known as the Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers, hope their recent victory in the Masters Baseball League would carry over in the SML's regular season.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

Mini Games organizers aim to build new facility

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee aims to build a multi-million dollar multi sports facility in time for the 2009 edition of the scaled-down quadrennial sporting event.

According to the Radio Australia website, the organizing committee is hoping to reach an agreement with the Cook Islands government to make the facility a reality.

Games chief executive officer David Lobb said the facility must meet the approval of the World Netball Federation, IFNA, and large enough to accommodate thousands of spectators expected to watch the two-week long sporting spectacle in Rarotonga.

The government, however, has a smaller venue in mind.

The planned sport facility must be completed in time for the 2009 World Junior Netball Championships in July, just two months before the Mini Games scheduled from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2.

Lobb is hopeful they would reach an agreement with the government to begin construction immediately. "The current concept plan does not meet the minimum requirements for netball."

"It would barely meet the requirements for weightlifting, so we have a problem. There is a board meeting here which will try and resolve some of that," he said.

"Hopefully we will see some resolution in terms of that need and make sure it comes in line with the national brief."

The 2009 edition of the Cook Islands Mini Games will feature 15 sports, which increased from the 12 offered during the VII Pacific Mini Games held in Koror, Palau in 2005.

Athletics, table tennis, triathlon, va'a or outrigger canoeing, and weightlifting, bodybuilding, boxing, lawn bowls, rugby league, and touch rugby are the sports lined up for the VIII Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games.

The CNMI could possibly send athletes in six of the sports, namely athletics, golf, table tennis, triathlon, sailing, and va'a or outrigger canoeing.

In other news, the Solomon Islands already created a task force that would piece together their bid for the 2015 Pacific Games.

Solomon Islands National Olympic Committee chief Charles Desebau is part of the committee that would bid of trying to bring the 2015 Pacific Games in Honiara.

Lawyer Gary Fa'aitoa will lead the taskforce, which also includes football coach Patrick Miniti and Desebau.

National Sports Council chief executive officer David Firisua said the Solomon Islands is serious on winning the hosting rights.

Desebau led Solomon Island's bid to host the 2011 games but they lost to New Caledonia during the Pacific Games Council's meeting in Koror, Palau during the 2005 Mini Games.

Watanabe wins Presidents Day 8-ball

Taylor Watanabe took USS Peleliu Club's Presidents Day 8-ball tournament last week.

Watanabe topped Ed Suzuki, Tai Rudolph and James Kintaro to head the winners' bracket. Kintaro had beaten Ramsey Ridep and Annie Tesiro. Tesiro took a close game from Ron Chisato.

Chisato roared back through the losers' bracket, downing Ridep, Rudolph, Suzuki, and Kintaro. He took the first of two games needed for the championship, but Watanabe settled down and finished the match.

Presidents Day prize packages went to Chisato, Kintaro, Suzuki and Rudolph for winning second through fifth place.

The game switches to 9-ball at 8pm tonight. Late entries will be acepted until 9 pm, but a phone call would be appreciated.

It's back to 8-ball on Wednesday with the same 9pm cutoff. Starting this week, the Rock Islanders will entertain players and spectators beginning at 7pm. Snacks are available, but feel free to Bring Your Own Chaser.

The entry fee for both tournaments is only $5. For more information, please contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sang Kim's Nissan 350Z competes in a race in Guam at the 76 Circle K Drag Strip at the Guam Raceway Park in Yigo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kazu Ikeda's El Camino competes in a race in Guam at the 76 Circle K Drag Strip at the Guam Raceway Park in Yigo.

Theft cancels Guam drag race

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A break-in on Thursday night at the 76 Circle K Drag Strip in Yigo caused the cancellation of Saturday's scheduled True Street Event race, organized by the Drag Racing Association of Guam.

According to Commonwealth Racing Federation and Marianas Automotor Sports Association president Kazu Ikeda, aside from the racetrack the association's convenience store and office at the Guam Raceway Park was also robbed.

Ikeda said organizers, led by DRAG president Eddie Cruz Jr. moved the event to March 29 to give them more time to replace all equipment stolen or damaged caused by the break-in.

Cruz, in an email to Ikeda, said the timing equipment and the sound system used in the races were either stolen or damaged during the break-in. The estimated cost of damages totaled $100,000.

Aside from the timing equipment and timing system, numerous items of value were stolen from the storage and office areas. "Due to the loss, the True Street Event has been postponed until we get replacement components for the systems," Cruz said in the email.

DRAG, a non-profit organization on Guam, has been holding drag races at the Guam Raceway Park in Yigo since the track opened a few years ago. Ikeda and a number of Saipan racers always participate in these races.

The Guam Police Department is investigating the incident with the help of G Guam CrimeStoppers.

Falcons open title bid vs Tigers

Baseball fans will be in for a treat as the repeat-seeking Falcons of Tanapag will open up its title defense against the Tigers as action in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League opens today at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers down Clippers 113-95 to win 7th straight

The Los Angeles Lakers brought up their seventh straight NBA victory by beating the undermanned Los Angeles Clippers 113-95 on Saturday.

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Marianas Cup attracts crowd

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A sizeable crowd enjoyed three days of beach volleyball action over the weekend in the 16th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival at Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

The Marianas Cup, Micronesia's longest-running beach volleyball event, began Friday afternoon with the eight professional players teaching a small group of youngsters and beach volleyball enthusiasts in a clinic.

The clinic, organized in part by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, gave local beach volleyball players the chance to learn from some of the best professional spikers.

Team U.S.A. waved their flag high in the exhibition match as pros Phil Dalhausser and regular Marianas Cup teammate Paul Baxter defeated Japan's Shinya Hata and new partner Yoshiumi Hasegawa in the men's side, while Jenn Snyder and Janelle Koester downed the Korean pair of Jeeyeun Han and Ji Youn June.

Pool play in the men's and women's class began on Saturday where a total of 41 teams in both divisions battled each other in a single-elimination format.

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JON PEREZ
Japan's Miki and Chie flash the victory sign after winning the women's division of the 16th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

JON PEREZ
Phil Dalhausser, left, attempts to block a Paul Baxter spike in the double-elimination round phase of the 16th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Alegre's remains flown home

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REPORTER

The remains of Roderick "Rick" Arconado Alegre were flown back to his country of the Philippines last Saturday after his family and friends held separate services at the Commonwealth Health Center chapel and at the Pentecostal Church in San Jose Friday night.

Alegre

Family, former teammates, members of opposing teams, and friends of Alegre paid their last respects to the fallen cager in Friday's final viewing with most of them remembering him as a good friend who was always ready to lend a helping hand.

More than 200 packed the final service at the Pentecostal Church in San Jose where Alegre's brother Mario and pastor Ramir Trinidad delivered separate eulogies.

Trinidad, who is also the principal of Marianas Baptist Academy, also led several faculty, students, and members of the boys' varsity team Stormz in rendering a song as their tribute to their coach that led them to the title in the 2007 season of the Private School League.

Alegre's body remained at the Pentecostal Church in San Jose until midnight and was later brought to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at dawn where it was prepared for repatriation to the

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BANMI to start leveling CNMI coaches

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Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar said they would start leveling all basketball coaches in the CNMI to further upgrade the level of competition in the Commonwealth.

Rangamar

Rangamar said leveling is one of BANMI's plans as soon as they formed a separate association for all CNMI coaches. He has suggested to the BANMI board that it is about time that they formed a coaches association.

The coaches association will include all active and inactive coaches in the CNMI. There are about 30 coaches in different levels in the CNMI.

Among the 30, only four are FIBA Level II coaches. They are Rangamar, CNMI national coach Rufino Aguon, former Division of Sports and Recreation director Tony Rogolifoi, and Saipan Stevedore Suns coach Sonny Flores.

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Menudo gets back at Fanians

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

League-leading Menudo avenged its first round loss to Fanians, 23-25, 25-22, 15-13, at the start of the second round of action in the men's division of the Indoor Winter Volleyball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Menudo was riding on a two-game winning run when they ran across Fanians on Jan. 22 where they suffered a 25-19, 21-25, 5-15 loss against their hard-fighting opponents.

Fanians seemed headed for another upset win last Thursday when they won a tightly fought opening set, 25-23.

But Jazzy Roscow and his crew composed of Larry Sharry, J.J. Neth, and Typhoon Saito could not sustain their momentum in the second frame and allowed Menudo to escape with a 25-22 decision to tie the game at one set each and force a rubber.

Both teams battled and outsmarted each other in the third set by winning points at the net. Lady Luck, however, smiled on Menudo this time and they wrapped up the match with at 15-13.

Menudo's win improved their record to 9-2, while handing Fanians their fourth loss in 10 games. Despite the loss Fanians remained at fourth place behind the 7-3 and 7-4 slates of No Fear and Ol'Aces.

The Islanders are still in the mix with a 6-5 mark followed by the identical 5-6 cards of the slowly fading CH-Hammer and Home Boys. Beach Jammers (2-8) and Ma Numel'u (1-10) complete the standings.

In other games, Home Boyz returned to its winning ways and snapped a three-game slide coming back from one-set down to score a 14-25, 25-19, 16-14 triumph over CH-Hammer.

Home Boyz has not won since

JON PEREZ
Home Boyz returned to its winning ways last Thursday by beating CH-Hammer to end a three-game losing skid in the men's division of the Indoor Volleyball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

sweeping Beach Jammers, 25-23, 25-20, 15-12, last Feb. 5.

Ol'Aces downed Beach Jammers, 25-22, 25-23, 5-15, while Islanders clipped Ma Numel'u, 25-10, 27-29, 15-11.

In the women's division,

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